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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

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The mystery of the missing Kenneth Noye

Private Enemy No 1

G2 with European weather

Climax to the Turville affair

Village voices

Paxman and the rest

Portrait, G2 page 4

Society

Affordable housing

The key

Pages 10/11

Latest score in the England game tonight: 14,000 - free

John Duncan and Emily Barr

THE best seat at Wembley tonight costs £75. A tout will (illegally) sell you one for £400. But there will be 14,000 people there who have paid precisely nothing for their ticket. Some have probably never been to a football match in their life.

Euro 96 has been one of the biggest corporate hospitality events seen in England, according to the industry. It has been worth around £3 million over the past two weeks, with favours being garnered and tucked away for future use from customers, suppliers, journalists and senior managements.

"If you go down the list of blue chip companies you will find all of these clients," said Michael Norris, chief executive of Sportsworld, one of the two official suppliers of hospitality packages. They have sold all their 3,500 packages at between £299 and £359 for the England-Germany semi-final.

Richard Joyce, international sales manager of Time magazine, which has bought blocks of tickets for hospitality use, has seen three England matches. "I took a customer to the Scotland game and he took me to England v Spain," he said. When we went the last time, the first person I saw was the media buyer from Lowe Howard Spink, the second was from TMD. I did feel a tinge of guilt at how many suits there were at the Holland game."

Leading the big hitters are British Telecom, Scottish Power, Barclays, Prudential and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banks. The 14,000 total adds up like this: 3,500 tickets given to sponsors; 7,000 plus packages sold through official corporate outlets; 2,000 for foreign football associations and 200 for Uefa, the European football authority. The media also get 1,400 free, although they claim to be working. Senior executives of



Vanxhall, one of the official sponsors of the event, may be enjoying themselves at Wembley, but their workers spent yesterday negotiating with management to allow them to start their shifts late so they could watch the game. Their initial offer to work the extra time next week was turned down, but eventually

agreed. Rover, owned by BMW, had already arranged for a radio commentary to be pumped to the production line. Rumours that the commentary would be in German proved unfounded. **Leader comment, page 8** **Sport, pages 15, 16** **Francis Wheen, G2, page 5**

What to do if you hate football

- Volunteer to help the Samaritans: German speakers especially welcome
- Go and listen to Harriet Harman's speech during the Commons debate on NHS bureaucracy
- Try to get invited to Marie Helvin's party, scheduled without reference to her Euro 96 wallchart, at London's Barclay Hotel
- Watch a video. Blockbuster are offering football haters two for the price of one
- Repeatedly switch your kettle on and off during the match to confuse viewing figures

Battle for the soul of schools

John Carvel Education Editor

THE Government yesterday placed education at the heart of the forthcoming general election campaign with a white paper encouraging all secondary schools to select more pupils by ability - an ideological bridge which Tony Blair's reformist Labour Party refuses to cross.

Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, emphasised that ministers were not trying to restore a rigid separation of children at 11 into grammar schools and secondary moderns, which were widely discredited in the 1960s.

Comprehensive school governors would be obliged to decide every year how far to move towards selection of pupils by ability or aptitude, but the Government would not impose the system where the local community did not demand it.

Twisting the knife on Labour's embarrassment over Harriet Harman's choice of a grammar school for her son, Mrs Shephard said the evidence of parental demand could be found on the Labour front bench.

Her white paper fell short of the dream set out by the Prime Minister last year of "a grammar school in every town". It included no procedures for forcing parental behaviour to encourage the admission of more able pupils, and there was no offer of extra funding to build selective schools in areas of comprehensive monopoly under local authority control.

Although legislation may be introduced in the next parliamentary session and could be passed before a late general election, proposals to allow grant-maintained schools to pick up to 50 per cent of their pupils by ability could not be implemented before September 1999.

Mrs Shephard could not give any indication of a timetable for achieving the establishment of more full-blown grammar schools. The package was aimed at achieving grammar school streams in comprehensives rather than a return to single right selection. David Blunkett, the shadow

White paper

- More selection of pupils by schools
- New grammar schools encouraged
- Schools may run transport, meals and truancy services
- Councils must give more money to schools
- Star for grant maintained schools to open nurseries/ day care/boarding places



education secretary, said it would have cost at least £2 billion to achieve Mr Major's dream at the expense of an inferior education for 19 out of every 20 children.

"The alternative is that this is a white mouse of a white paper," he said. "It might allow schools to select more pupils, but there was no evidence they would do so. Only 41 of the 1,100 grant-maintained schools had made use of their existing power to select up to 10 per cent."

"If that is the case, John Major will be very angry indeed. Mrs Shephard... will be blamed for destroying his dream."

However, it seemed premature last night to conclude that she has fought a successful rearguard action against Mr Major's drive to find a distinctive rightwing education policy. Extra ingredients may yet be put in the Conservative election manifesto.

Mrs Shephard said the Government wanted all schools to

develop distinctive strengths. Temporary incentives for specialist technology and language colleges would become permanent and new specialisms would be introduced, including sports and the arts.

The powers of local education authorities would be further curtailed, with the proportion of budgets delegated to school governors increased from 85 to 95 per cent.

Margaret Tulloch, of the Campaign for State Education, said the proposals "only make sense if seen as party political, intended... merely to embarrass Tony Blair and Harriet Harman. Our children deserve better."

The teacher unions said the package was irrelevant to children's educational needs. David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "Creaming off the most able pupils will lead to a rising underclass."

Leader comment, page 8

How to rescue rare species: send them north

Paul Brown Environment Correspondent

RARE plants and some tree species will have to be dug up and moved hundreds of miles north if they are to survive the climate change which is raising the temperature in Britain, a government report to be published next week reveals.

Some animals and birds, like mountain hares and ptarmigan, are expected to become extinct altogether. But insects, particularly spiders, butterflies and wasps will thrive in larger numbers. Many butterflies and moths which only occur in southern



Species at risk... the mountain hare and the ptarmigan



counties and are at the northern limit of their range are expected to migrate north. House pests like cockroaches, fleas and mites will increase.

The northward migration of species to compensate for the temperature rise has already begun and is expected to be as much as 30 to 50 miles

a decade, according to the report, to be published by John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, next Tuesday.

By 2050 temperatures are expected to have increased by 1.5 degrees centigrade, which means sensitive plant species will have to move 150 to 250 miles north to find the same conditions in which they thrive now. Mountain-growing species will have to climb 40 to 55 metres a decade to reach the same conditions.

The mountain hare and ptarmigan will die out because they rely on turning white in winter and surviving in the snow where other animals cannot. In future this

habitat will disappear as snow becomes a rarity. Climate change is a particular problem for Britain's rarer plants and animals, which occupy small environmental niches, and many of which are currently protected by having their homes declared sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

The changes are occurring too fast for them to adapt in the evolutionary sense, and there are no suitable landscapes for them to migrate across. The report says the solution is to create a suitable habitat a few hundred miles north and move them.

The report says that many of the SSSIs cannot be saved

in their present form. They will be invaded by other plant species migrating northwards and lose some of the species that made them special in the first place.

About 58 of the 506 currently endangered plant species are expected to die out with only a 1 degree centigrade increase in temperature unless special provision is made for them. Sea level rises of 20 to 30 centimetres will affect mudflats and salt marshes, which in turn will damage bird populations. The scientists suggest that sea defences may have to be dismantled in some places to allow these marshes to migrate inland.

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Sketch

In the style of the boardroom bore



Simon Hoggart

MR MAJOR isn't really a political leader at all; he's a chief executive officer in the new global economy...

Prime Minister's Questions began with a plea from Mr Charles Hendry (C. High Peak) to congratulate the England football team on their magnificent victory on Saturday.

"Willingly," the chief executive replied. Euro 96 had been a "striking success" with a "carnival atmosphere".

Mr Blair asked him about the sell-off of army married quarters. He replied fairly courteously, and at length.

He is happy at such times, expounding a familiar brief at the board meeting. If there was any passion, it could be seen in his left hand, which he wields as a running commentary on his own remarks.

Sometimes it waves up and down, sometimes it makes chopping movements, often it just flaps nervously. Now and again his forefinger thinks it's a pair of scissors and he slices through an argument in mid-air.

David Evans (C. Welwyn), the loudmouth who imagines he is a much-loved national character (but isn't), asked in a voice which would drown Concorde landing: "Worrit a Conservrrrr-vative gummit that le' inflation rip at 26.9 per cent?"

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First night

Sir Les's humour from down under

Robert Yates

Sir Les Patterson Whitehall Theatre

BARRY Humphries' second best-known creation has the kind of looks you wouldn't wish on a gargoyle.

Sir Les, Australia's most outspoken diplomat, wears a mass of brown, broken teeth, so outside they chew into his chin.

As with Sir Les's social superior, Dame Edna, the act begins with all the right external. In this case, since Sir Les is, in his parlance, a master of "manly manoeuvres", the most conspicuous prop sits inside his trousers.

The point is that Sir Les is the champion of Australian values. And to this end, he does his glorious best to expand the boundaries of the crude. It is a measure of his achievement that at least 75 per cent of the material cannot be relayed even to readers as liberal and broad-minded as the Guardian's.

And yet, all the incessant sex talk never cloys because of the style with which he manages to push the tone ever

lower. It's like watching a limbo dancer descending ever further. What's more, the bad taste comes with such comic timing and verbal invention that you're too busy admiring the wit to find time to tut-tut.

Essentially, the show reprises old tricks. It is lent some narrative structure by the conceit that Sir Les has decided to give up the drink, and as a result is even more of a role-model ambassador, there to comfort Princess Di ("I thought her name was Malibu spelled backwards") and have moral discussions with the Pope ("the world's number one non-player").

The glory of Sir Les is that it is all on the surface. Humphries recognises that something so grotesque has to be a thing of beauty. Or perhaps it's just those Australian values. The punchline, of course, is that there aren't any.

Mr Bruton's claim is another blow for those who want to believe that the IRA may soon call a new ceasefire.

THE IRA has developed a new type of bomb which was being assembled when police raided a weapons "factory" last week, the Irish prime minister, John Bruton, said yesterday.

He said that the Irish police had reported that dozens of

Letter links chance for businesses to air views on economic policy to plea for donations to party funds

Tory 'questions for cash'

Michael White Political Editor

LEADING British businesses are being offered the chance to put their views on key economic policies directly to John Major's Downing Street policy unit as part of a fund-raising drive organised by officials at Conservative Central Office.

The direct link - often denied - between policy formation, Downing Street and Tory efforts to raise money to fight the coming general election emerged last night in a letter from the party vice-chairman, Sir Graham Bright. It was leaked to Labour MP Richard Caborn

by a dismayed firm. Last night, the MP wrote to Sir Gordon Downey, parliamentary commissioner for standards, referring the letter to him for his views.

"It would seem there is a conflict between payments to a political party and influencing government policy," Mr Caborn suggested.

Marked Private and Confidential, the Bright letter was sent to a number of leading companies with an initial deadline of May 30 for its return, later extended to last weekend.

"In order for your views to form a part of my report to ministers, I would be grateful if you could complete this questionnaire," wrote Sir Graham, a self-made busi-

nessman who was once Mr Major's parliamentary private secretary.

Most of the subsequent questions are the kind all parties ask when doing market research about policy. The letter sought opinions about tax ("would the abolition of capital gains tax help you?"), the European single currency, and interest rates: "Do you agree that low taxation and low public expenditure are an important goal over the next 20 years or so?"

Mr Caborn, MP for Sheffield Central and shadow competition minister, said he was particularly angered by an explicit appeal for cash in the letter after it first asked: "Are you happy for this viewpoint to be passed on to the

Number 10 policy unit (the Prime Minister's office)?"

It then asked: "Does your company contribute to the Conservative party?" before adding: "Would you consider making a contribution?" towards party funds or the purchase of what are described as "research papers supplied to MPs" - a reference to the output of party headquarters' own research department.

Traditionally, Tory fund-raisers have stressed the so-called "Chinese walls" which separate the receipt of donations from any influence on policy - despite persistent claims to the contrary and the party's refusal to divulge the names of donors.

One senior Labour official

said last night: "This letter looks like a matter of trading in special influence. It is saying 'I'll give you a voice in government if you give my party the money to get re-elected'."

Conservative MPs make a similar charge against Labour for its union ties - far more transparent - as they did again at question time yesterday.

Earlier, Tony Blair had highlighted what he called "the activities of the £10 million Tory lie machine" - a reference to the amount of cash the rival party is allegedly going to use in its election campaigning.

In contrast to Conservative claims that people would be £450 better off next year, the

typical family had paid an extra £2,000 in tax since the Tories won the last election, Mr Blair said.

Though Mr Blair's political prospects have generated serious financial support for Labour at all levels - all donations over £5,000 are said to be declared - neither Labour nor the Liberal Democrats has anything like the sort of money which the Conservative Party chairman, Dr Brian Mawhinney, may command.

As the election looms and medium-size donations of £15,000-20,000 roll in from companies, Dr Mawhinney has managed to clear the party's overdraft and build a war chest that could reach £20 million.

Amstrad



Source: Datastream

Tycoon ready to end 28 years at head of company he formed when he was 20 and which was valued at £1.2bn before recession took hold



Alan Sugar... from barrow boy to multi-millionaire and owner of Tottenham Hotspur football club

Sugar stands to make £80m from Amstrad sale

Tony May

ALAN Sugar, the tycoon who brought computers and satellite receivers into millions of British homes, is close to selling his Amstrad master company for £230 million.

The one-time barrow boy, who now runs Tottenham Hotspur football club, announced yesterday that he was in talks with Psion, best known for its pocketable computer-cum-diary.

Mr Sugar owns 34 per cent of the shares in Amstrad; the deal would net him nearly £80 million in shares. It would also close a chapter of his life in which he turned a company worth £3 million in 1980 into one valued at £1.2 billion eight years later.

Since then, the recession has been mainly to blame for whittling away the company

and his personal fortune. Mr Sugar was worth almost £300 million in 1988. He is now worth about £150 million.

Sources close to him yesterday denied that he wanted to spend all his time at Spurs, which has jumped in value from £12 million to £98 million under his management.

Nor would the deal terminate his involvement with the electronics business. His Psion shares will make him one of the biggest shareholders in a group founded by David and Elaine Potter in 1984.

The Potters have made a £60 million fortune but, at joint 294th place, they lie 150 places below Mr Sugar in the Sunday Times list of Britain's richest people.

An associate of Mr Sugar said: "Alan has had money for a long time and loves making deals. He is a product visionary who will remain in-

terested in the business. He has deal-making skills which Psion would be foolish to ignore."

Mr Sugar is not a committed man and has been scathing about City attitudes to business, so he will not be joining the Psion board, if the deal goes through. Mr Potter would remain chairman and chief executive of the enlarged company.

The next frontier for both companies is the production of a new generation of pocketable computers which will combine wireless fax, e-mail and internet connections with notepad and personal organiser facilities.

Nokia, a Finnish telecom equipment maker, plans to launch such a device in August with a price tag of more than £1,000.

Mr Sugar sees the Psion deal as a way of injecting technologically skilled man-

agement into Amstrad, which has reduced its reliance upon consumer electronics through the acquisition of Viglen, a business computer firm, and Dancal, a mobile phone company, whose technology Psion sees as its main prize.

Psion would be likely to negotiate a sale of Amstrad's loss-making consumer electronics business, which is best-known for low-priced video cassette recorders, com-

puters and fax machines. This division is all that is left of Amstrad - an acronym of Alan Michael Sugar Trading - which Mr Sugar floated on the stock market in 1980.

The second son of a tailor, Mr Sugar first made money while at school by delivering papers. He went to work in the statistics department of the education and science ministry but later starting selling bits and pieces for hi-fi

machines and importing car radios.

He formed Amstrad when he was 20 and made a fortune by spotting new electronics products with the potential to become mass-market items. The company doubled in size annually during the 1980s by making products in the Far East and marketing them aggressively in the UK.

Models that started new fashion for computers



Alan Sugar with examples of his low-priced products in 1984

AMSTRAD began business in 1970 with a plant which made plastic hi-fi turntable covers at low prices using an injection moulding process which undercut competitors.

The following year it began to make amplifiers and tuners and then early twin-deck cassette recorders.

Some of the company's more famous computer models were: CPC 464 In 1984, Amstrad broke away from its background

as a maker of cheap stereo equipment with the launch of its first computer games machine. Pitched against the Commodore 64 it was immediately successful as it was sold complete with a monitor, tape deck and suite of games.

PCW 8356 In the same year, the group launched its first word processor with TV ads showing typewriters falling out of office windows into a skip. At less than the cost of an electronic typewriter, it came with software and a

printer and sold 800,000 units in its first year.

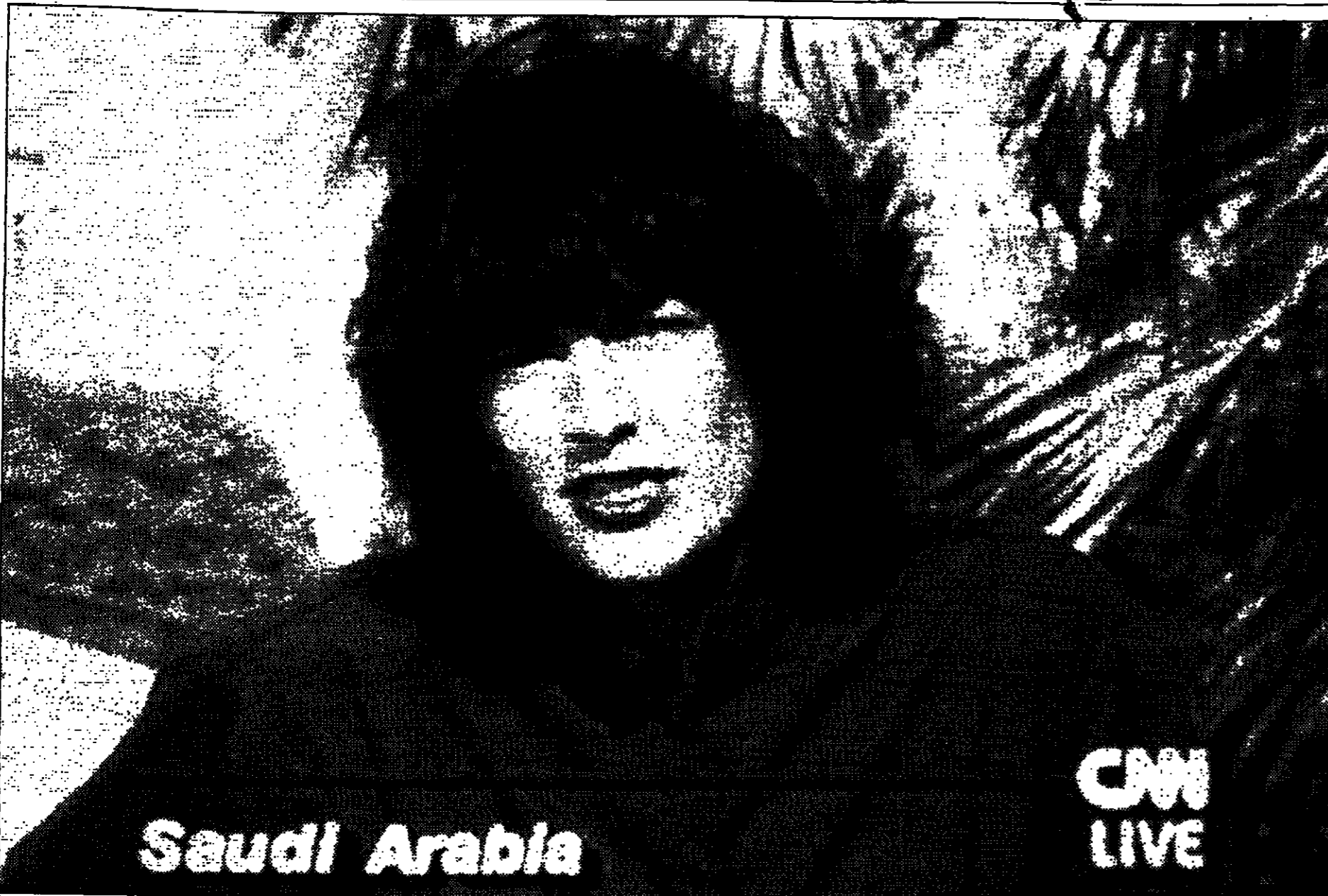
PC1512 In 1986 Amstrad undercut the IBM-compatible personal computer with a product sold for £399 complete with monitor and software - a quarter of the price of market leading brands.

Satellite In 1988 Sugar did a deal with Rupert Murdoch to design and supply equipment to receive the first Sky TV broadcasts in February 1989.

Advertisement for ICS International Correspondence Schools. Features the headline 'Get more out of life! Train at home for a brighter future with ICS'. Includes a list of courses such as Business Management, Technical Studies, GCSE 'A' Level, Office Studies, Marketing, Leisure and General Interest, Languages, and Computer Studies. A coupon for free information is provided with the phone number 0500 888 004.

Advertisement for Tory MP. Features the headline 'Tory MP' and 'Demand for vote sale of married qu'. Includes a small portrait of a man and the text 'As a steady child but no... if another...'. The page number '12' is visible at the bottom.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom center of the page.



Foreign correspondent Christiane Amanpour, who has signed lucrative deals with CNN and CBS. She is renowned for accusing President Clinton, live, of 'flip-flopping' over Bosnia

Frontline reporter makes news with \$2m deal

Andrew Cull
Media Correspondent

CHRISTIANE Amanpour, American television's answer to Kate Adie, became the world's highest-paid foreign correspondent yesterday after an unprecedented bidding war between the United States networks.

The 38-year-old, dubbed the Queen of Bosnia for her coverage of the conflict in former Yugoslavia, has signed a contract estimated to be worth nearly \$2 million (£1.3 million) a year.

Ms Amanpour, born in London and educated at a convent school in Essex, was courted by the four big American networks and signed deals with two of them.

CNN 13 years ago, came to prominence during the dramatic changes in central Europe during 1989-90, and through her coverage of the Gulf war from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait to the post-ceasefire Kurdish refugee crisis.

Her reputation was sealed in the Balkans when she accused President Bill Clinton during a live link-up of "flip-flopping" over Bosnia.

Ms Amanpour said of the new deal: "I am very flattered that there is so much interest and I was fortunate to have some wonderful choices. But this is the closest to a journalist's dream."

"It would be very difficult for me to leave CNN when it faces new serious competition, because I have been with CNN since almost from the beginning. This lets me have my cake and eat it too."

It is rumoured that she is being paid at least \$1 million (£650,000) by CNN — four times the norm for senior foreign correspondents. Some estimates put the figure nearer \$1.5 million.

Pay-as-you-view: what the media stars earn



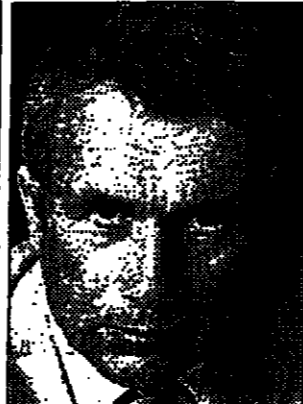
Barbara Walters \$9 million (£6 million)

Highest-paid American anchor. The veteran presenter, aged 64, of ABC's high-rating 20/20 show. Known as "our national interviewer" and "the snoop laureate" in the US press, she was the first to break the \$4 million barrier.



Dan Rather \$5 million (£3.5 million)

Succeeded Walter Cronkite as host of the CBS evening news, which has fallen behind ABC and NBC bulletins in the ratings. The 64-year-old was in the headlines last year when his co-anchor Connie Chung was dropped after their on-screen chemistry was judged too volatile.



Martin Bell \$30,000-£100,000

Veteran BBC war reporter has covered conflicts in Bosnia, Vietnam, Beirut and the Gulf. Honoured two years ago by the Royal Television Society for coverage of 11 wars and reports from 80 countries in 30 years. Aged 57, and easily recognisable with his trademark lucky white suit. Has pledged not to return to Bosnia.



Kate Adie \$80,000-£100,000

The BBC's chief news correspondent and best known female reporter. She was awarded the CBE in 1992. Aged 50, she covered the Iranian embassy siege, the Tiananmen Square massacre, the bombing of Tripoli and the Gulf war, and has filed regular dispatches from Bosnia.

CNN will be particularly buoyed up by NBC's failure, because NBC, in alliance with Microsoft, is due to launch a rival 24-hour cable news network — MSNBC — next month.

Tom Johnson, the president of CNN, said: "Christiane Amanpour is the finest international correspondent of her generation. I am delighted she is remaining with CNN in an expanded and extraordinarily challenging role."

He added: "Ideally we would have wanted an exclusive contract, but this is quite new and innovative. Ms Amanpour, who has filed from some of the world's most dangerous trouble-spots including Afghanistan, Algeria, Rwanda and Somalia, said the new arrangement would not mean an end to her work on the frontline."

"I am by no means coming in from the cold," she insisted.

Tory MPs gang up on Portillo

Demand for vote on £2bn sale of married quarters

Michael White and David Fairhall

JOHN Major yesterday vigorously defended plans by Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, to sell off armed forces' married quarters, in the face of objections from 65 Tory backbenchers who have demanded that MPs be allowed a vote on the decision.

Mr Major insisted in the Commons that much of the opposition to the sale of 58,000 houses was based on "misunderstandings." He denied claims that rents would rise sharply. The sell-off will raise

between £1.5 billion and £2 billion. But last night dissenting MPs warned that they had not been satisfied by Mr Major's assurances. David Evans, Tory MP for Welwyn/Hatfield, a principal signatory of the motion, said: "There is a great body of opinion on our side of the House that will resist it with everything we have got. I believe this will demoralise the forces."

The British Legion and other service support groups also condemned the plan, though ministers insist that the 25-year leaseback by the MoD from property companies hoping to buy the 800 sites has been misunderstood. Army families put great store by what they call the "regimental patch", a cluster of married quarters in which young wives can find support when their men are away.

Tom Johnson, the Labour leader, complained that the leaseback formula being pushed through on the cheap and with "indecent haste" to plug the Treasury's need for funds. Mr Major replied that the scheme had been under consideration for some time and was intended to release resources to "enable equipment to be purchased for the armed services."

He denied that service rents would rise, that families would be moved against their will and stressed that money raised would also be used to improve the houses concerned. Army wives were already up in arms over the Portillo sell-off. The MoD's sweetener — a promise to spend £100 million upgrading married quarters — was dismissed by Cherry Milne, chairwoman of the Army Families Federation, as a "quick fix."

Israelis to restart talks with Arafat

Shayam Bhatia in Jerusalem

ISRAELI foreign minister David Levy will be the first representative of Benjamin Netanyahu's government to meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, after the new administration announced yesterday that it would resume autonomy negotiations with the Palestinian leadership.

Israeli government officials said the meeting would take place within a few days. The decision to "expand" relations, announced during a visit to Jerusalem by Warren Christopher, gives the US secretary of state one bit of good news to deliver to Mr Arafat and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo today.

But Mr Netanyahu's undertaking is minimal: the Israeli government has declared it will take a tougher line in the negotiations, and the Israeli leader is refraining at present from meeting Mr Arafat.

Mr Netanyahu's advisers have also drawn up a list of what they describe as "Palestinian violations" of the Oslo Accord which set up the framework for the Middle East peace process.

respect the choice of the Palestinians and make a telephone call to Mr Arafat." Ibrahim Kheraishie, the deputy head of the Palestinian office preparing for final-status talks with Israel, said the peace process would resume in earnest only when Mr Netanyahu met Mr Arafat.

"We are giving the Israelis one week to start talks," he said. "If there is no such development, then we can say there is a crisis."

Mr Christopher said yesterday he expected a Netanyahu government to honour international agreements signed by the previous Labour administration. He was referring to Israel's military pull-back — now overdue — from the West Bank city of Hebron.

The Americans and the Palestinians fear Mr Netanyahu has no intention of handing over Hebron, home to 150,000 Palestinians and 450 Jews.

Idea of 'no jury' fraud trials frightening, says Maxwell

Dan Atkinson

KEVIN Maxwell yesterday attacked the Serious Fraud Office director, George Staple, for suggesting that not guilty verdicts returned in cases of alleged financial crime represented a failure of the jury system.

"I find it offensive," said Mr Maxwell, who was cleared after a 131-day trial during which he spent three weeks in the witness box.

safe place for a defendant was in front of a tribunal jury. Mr Maxwell, who is fighting moves to stage a "double jeopardy" second trial on charges relating to the business empire of his late father, Robert, was expanding on comments made in an article in today's Guardian, written in response to Mr Staple's remarks.

The outgoing SFO chief, speaking on Monday at the London School of Economics, announced a change of heart on the role of the jurors. Hitherto, the director has, since his appointment in 1992, supported the right of fraud defendants to seek jury trials.

Mr Maxwell and his brother Ian were cleared on January 19 of conspiracy to defraud pension funds, as was Larry Trachtenberg.

Kevin Maxwell, page 9; City Notebook, page 11

As a step-parent you are expected to love a child just because it's your partner's child, but no one would have the same expectations if another adult came to share your home.

G2 page 12

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4 BRITAIN

Judge depllores sex lies of Wee Frees

Minister cleared in case that has split church, reports Eriend Clouston

THE Free Church of Scotland was plunged into crisis yesterday when a judge accused some of its most senior clergy of exploiting false allegations of sexual misconduct to ruin a doctrinal opponent.

Sheriff John Horsburgh, QC, branded four women as liars as he cleared the Reverend Professor Donald Macleod of five charges of indecent assault.

The women, who claimed to have been touched or kissed by the 55-year-old professor of systematic theology, were part of a hostile "nexus" prepared to bend the moral rules

to secure their theological enemy's downfall. "The witnesses... have squared their consciences on the basis that a modest degree of dishonesty would be justified by the perceived resultant advantage of blackening Professor Macleod."

The judge criticised a minority of the members of a committee which three times over six years decided there was no case to answer.

Mr Macleod said later that he bore no ill will towards the women. "They have shot their bolt. They did intend to do me damage far beyond their own understanding of what they were doing."

He was less charitable about the conspirators whose motives were said to have included revenge for his hostile review of a biography of a Welsh evangelical. "My confidence in Elgh Calvinism has been dented. I don't understand how people who hold Christian beliefs can end up as virtual persecutors."

His acquittal brought an end to a 10-year history of persistent innuendo that began with claims that the professor, on the progressive wing of the Free Church, had committed adultery with an unnamed co-religionist in Australia. The judge accepted defence claims that the

women's stories had been used by Protestant zealots with supporters on the Free Church's influential training of the ministry committee after the Australian rumours were found to be unsubstantiated.

The judge did not specifically accuse Mr Macleod of perjury. But he said of the Cambridge-based statistician, referred to as Dr H, who had claimed that Mr Macleod had lifted up her skirt in the course of an assault that lasted at least 90 minutes: "She maybe allowed herself to be used by men for whom she has some regard in

the furtherance of their objectives." The Rev John Murray, who presented the statement of one of the alleged victims to the training of the ministry committee, was "a dangerous man."

Mr Murray, the minister at St Columba's Free Church in Edinburgh, is co-founder of the Banner of Truth publishing house with the Rev Ian Murray, described by Mr Macleod in his evidence as the "archbishop of world Calvinism".

The judge said both had set out to secure "the downfall" of Mr Macleod, whom they considered to be, among other things, soft on Roman Catholicism.

Their fellow Free Church conspirators included the Rev Angus Smith, Mr Macleod's brother-in-law, and the Rev Gordon Mair, convener of the

committee.

The judge likened the rationale of the campaign to the Jesuits' justification of the Inquisition: "It may be a bit messy, but it's a good way of sorting out the heretics."

The four women maintained that they had been separately assaulted by the professor in his car, his house, and his study at the Free Church College in Edinburgh.

Three of the allegations emerged in 1994 "at the 11th hour" when a majority of the

committee had decided there was nothing in other claims. Under cross-examination by Andrew Haxby QC, defence inconsistencies emerged in the women's testimony. M, aged 28, the niece of the Mr Smith, alleged that Mr Macleod had attempted to kiss her on a date when he was actually in the Outer Hebrides.

Others had difficulty explaining why in some cases it had taken years for them to make complaints.

All four were related to, or supporters of, opponents of Mr Macleod. N, aged 38, an Australian illustrator, was revealed to have had her air fare to Scotland paid by a fund established by a worshipper in Mr John Murray's previous church. The judge described this as "interference in the process of justice".



Vindicated... Professor Donald Macleod, cleared of charges of indecent assault, pictured at the Free Church College in Edinburgh where he works

PHOTOGRAPH: MURDO MACLEOD

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Asylum policy setback

Judges rule denial of temporary housing to destitute is illegal

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

THE credibility of the Government's new asylum policy suffered a further blow yesterday when the Appeal Court ruled that the denial of temporary council housing to destitute asylum seekers was illegal.

The unanimous decision by three Appeal Court judges follows their ruling last Friday that the Government's withdrawal of welfare benefits from most asylum seekers was unlawful and should not be tolerated in a civilised country.

The two rulings yesterday prompted complaints from backbench Conservative MPs that the judges were out of

touch with public opinion, which believed that such people "shouldn't" receive benefits at the expense of the taxpayer."

The judgment yesterday will not lead to the introduction of emergency legislation, unlike the earlier ruling, but it will increase the difficulties the Government faces in pushing its changes through both Houses of Parliament next week.

The ruling by Lords Justices Simon Brown, Neill and Waite, found that four London councils were wrong to exclude destitute asylum seekers from shelter and should have considered them all as "priority vulnerable cases" and offered them temporary accommodation.

Lord Justice Simon Brown said: "I see no good reason

why someone likely to suffer 'injury or detriment' through a total inability to clothe, feed or shelter himself should be any less entitled to priority housing than someone vulnerable through age or disability."

Jerry Clora, the solicitor representing three of the four asylum seekers who challenged the decisions, said: "What the Court of Appeal has said today is that they are not prepared to see asylum seekers who have fled persecution and torture in their own country having to sleep rough on the streets of Britain's capital."

The four applicants were Joseph Kihara, from Kenya; Lidya Araya, an Ethiopian; Dragomir Pavlov, from Bulgaria; and Telkeja Ilungula, who fled Zaire.

The Government's difficulties arose from the decision to withdraw housing benefit from most asylum seekers on February 8 while local au-

thorities still have a legal duty to give temporary housing to those who are seeking refugee status. It was this legal duty that the Appeal Court upheld yesterday. The Asylum and Immigration Bill will remove that duty when it becomes law.

Nick Hardwick, director of the Refugee Council, which helped the four bring their case, said: "This is another blow to the Government's policy. Any fair-minded person must recognise that the Government's asylum policy has no credibility left. We hope peers and MPs of all parties will call a halt to the plan to throw asylum seekers on the streets."

The Department of the Environment spokesman was surprised at the judges' decision as the courts had not previously held that financial circumstances amounted to sufficient "special reason" to make people eligible for social housing.

MP reopens libel action after vote

Clare Dyer

RUPERT Allason, the Tory MP for Torbay, yesterday became the first member of Parliament to take advantage of MPs' new freedom to waive parliamentary privilege in libel cases.

Mr Allason filed High Court papers applying for a stay to be lifted on his action against Joe Haines, political columnist of the defunct tabloid Today, and the paper's former editor, Richard Stott.

The Defamation Bill, which received its third reading on Monday night, will pave the way for Mr Allason and another Tory MP, Neil Hamilton, to reopen actions against newspapers which had been blocked by a 300-year-old rule barring the courts from inquiring into the activities of

that the rule would make it impossible for the newspapers in both cases to mount a defence.

A Lords amendment to the bill, which Labour failed to defeat on Monday, allows MPs to waive the privilege, enshrined in the Bill of Rights 1689, in defamation cases. It will apply where newspapers want to cite parliamentary papers or proceedings in their defence, MPs even those who have waived the privilege, will still have full protection from libel writs over remarks they make in Parliament.

Ironically, Mr Allason brought his libel action against Mr Haines over an article which accused him of abusing parliamentary privilege. Mr Justice Owen held that it would be unfair to allow the case to go ahead. As an MP, he said, Mr Allason

must take the ill consequences as well as the good consequences."

Within days Mr Justice May halted an action by Mr Hamilton and the parliamentary lobbyist Ian Greer against the Guardian over allegations of payments for asking parliamentary questions.

The judge said he was "acutely conscious" that the effect might be seen as a profound denial of justice to Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer, a denial of a forum to the Guardian to justify its publication and even as a licence to publish material about parliamentary proceedings which, even if untrue, might go unremedied.

Labour's attempt to scrap the Lords clause was defeated by 61 votes.

Leader comment, page 8

Ministers may suspend Post Office's letters monopoly

David Hencke
Westminster Correspondent

MINISTERS are planning to suspend the Royal Mail's monopoly on letters and junk mail for the duration of the postal dispute if strikes continue after tomorrow's one day stoppage.

Organisations representing the direct mail companies are also privately pressing ministers to suspend the monopoly permanently after the industrial action is over.

This has left ministers with a dilemma, despite their free-market inclinations. Such a change would require legislation with uncertain prospects, given the Government's majority of one in the Commons. Ministers also face

attack in the Lords on Friday when peers debate a report rejecting the abolition of the postal monopoly on direct mail.

The move highlights a toughening of the Government's desire to see off the strike, which has solid support from the workforce. Yesterday, ministers were determined to press the case after being angered by Labour's disclosure of a U-turn on government policy towards the postal monopoly in the European Union.

The tougher attitude will coincide with a big attack on the Labour Party on the day the postal workers stage their second day's strike. Ministers and Conservative Central Office intend to demand to know where Tony Blair, the

Labour leader, stands on the strike.

Labour this week leaked confidential minutes which revealed a government U-turn over the Post Office monopoly

on "junk mail" deliveries. In a reversal of its previous position, Britain will tomorrow support a new European Union directive to end the direct mail monopoly in 2001.

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Plunging morale causing haemorrhage of doctors that could leave some areas without medical cover, BMA conference is told

GP exodus threatens NHS disaster

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

THE health service is facing a haemorrhage of doctors that could leave some areas without medical cover because of plunging morale, the British Medical Association warned yesterday.

The exodus meant GP services in particular were facing a disaster, as younger doctors were not coming forward to replace those who were leaving early.

The BMA's annual meeting in Brighton heard that growing workloads, increased bureaucracy, frustration with the Government's health

changes and less time with patients meant many doctors were leaving the profession.

Joy Edelman, a consultant from Ilford, Essex, said a few years ago it was rare to find doctors retiring before 65, but now it was rare to find them staying over 60.

Sandy Addison, from Lankshire, warned that for many years a growing recruitment crisis in general practice had been ignored by ministers and the Department of Health. "A mounting wave of disaffection is threatening Britain's family doctor service with disaster."

Recruitment to GP training schemes had fallen with more than 50 per cent undersubscribed, whereas in the 1980s there had been queues of

young doctors wanting to become GPs.

"Young doctors don't want to face the prospect of a professional life in a branch of medicine where skills will wither, where credibility as a professional doctor is set to decline and their ability to add columns of figures and understand the jargon of contracting and purchasing is more important than clinical ability."

Jan Banks, a member of the working party set up by the BMA to look into the exodus from the profession said: "Morale among doctors is lower than a snake's navel but the Government is incapable of listening."

"There are insufficient doctors coming in at one end and

doctors retiring early at the other. Not only is there not enough water going in to the bucket, but there's a hole in one end as well."

Dr Banks said in one part of east London there were 140 GP vacancies, but a recruitment drive had failed to find one doctor willing to work in the area.

Although GP numbers overall appeared to be rising this disguised the fact that many were opting for part time work.

Young doctors training to be GPs had dropped from 2,129 in 1989 to 1,840 in 1995. At the other end of the age scale the number of GPs aged 60-65 had stood at 2,065 in 1988 but by 1994 this had dropped to 1,450. Ian Bogle, chairman

of the BMA's GP committee said: "Young doctors don't want to come in to general practice and older doctors are bailing out. We are facing a disaster."

Dr Bogle said if new GPs could not be found, patient lists for the remainder would rise.

The BMA revealed that in the first 10 weeks since April when it started a telephone counselling service for members it had received 800 calls, some from doctors who were suicidal.

Mark Porter, chairman of the steering group overseeing the project, said: "It is a sad fact that workloads emerges as the major issue causing stress among doctors working in the NHS."

Private money 'no remedy for cuts in NHS'

REPRESENTATIVES at the BMA conference yesterday voted by an overwhelming majority against a scheme which allows private investors to pay for NHS capital projects like hospital buildings.

They opposed the principle of the private finance initiative (PFI) in health care, which has become a cornerstone of government health policy.

Public capital funding in the NHS has been cut by almost 17 per cent on the

basis of money being attracted from the private sector.

Six PFI projects costing £18 million have been approved.

But many doctors fear the notion of private finance will undermine the NHS and lead to "privatisation by the back door."

The BMA drew back from outright conflict with the Government, saying that where PFI was the only way new hospitals or health centres could be built, it could go ahead provided certain guidelines were followed.

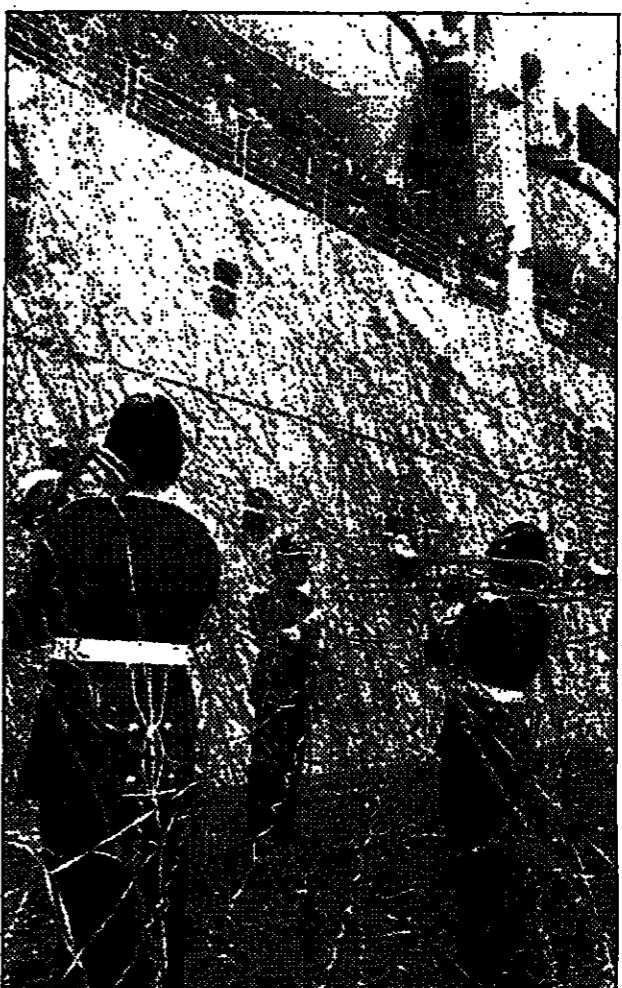
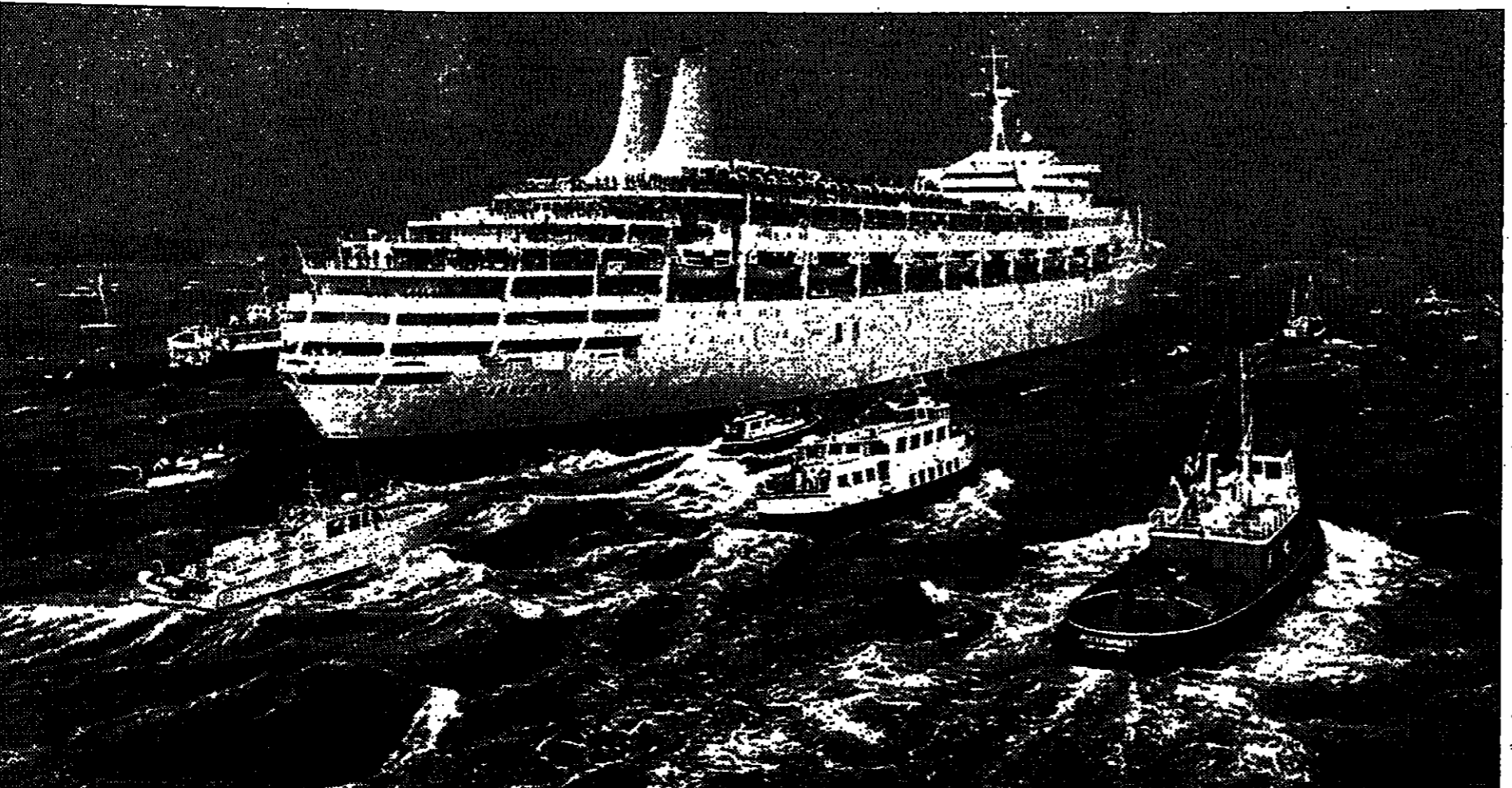
Sandy Macara, BMA chairman, said the association would prefer PFI not to happen but it lived in the

real world and safeguards had to be in place in areas where it was used. He said doctors were being blackmailed into using the system because it was the only way to get new facilities as the Government had cut the money allocated for NHS building projects.

"They are being blackmailed into accepting the private finance initiative for one reason and one reason only. That is that the Government is not prepared to recognise the reality of under-funding in the National Health Service."

He added: "The NHS is the best bet — let's invest in the NHS, not in a commercial organisation which can take a rake off."

Ship's withdrawal marks the end of a distinguished career — during peace and war — of a veteran of world travel



The Canberra returning to Southampton after one of her world cruises (left), and (right) leaving for her first cruise after returning from the Falklands war in 1982, played out by the band of the Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire

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Canberra ready for last trip as grand era of ocean cruising draws to close

John Ezard looks back with nostalgia on a passing age of wood-panelled luxury



THE liner Canberra, last vestige of the grand traditional era of ocean cruising, will disappear from the passenger seas of the world next autumn.

Her owners, P&O Cruises, announced yesterday that the 44,807-tonne ship — with her luxurious mahogany panelling — would end her career on September 30, 1997, after 36 years in service.

The decision sets a seal on voyages totalling more than 3 million miles, during which the vessel carried nearly a million cruise passengers, 6,500 troops and more than 3,000 prisoners of war, serving as a troop ship in the 1982 Falklands conflict.

It also ends an epoch. Canberra was launched in June 1961, not long before new fire regulations, increasing caution and cost-cutting combined to stop

the use of fine hardwoods in cruise design.

She was the last ship of her kind to be built. Most previous luxury liners had vied with each other in their acreages of tropical woodwork, installed to foster a homely atmosphere.

Canberra, though, was

of a mass market, had wood in her two dining rooms, her saloons, including the famous Cricketers' Bar, her purser's lobby and many of her 787 cabins. "She had virtually every type of wood," one of P&O's staff said last night.

It cost £17 million, had a top speed of 23.5 knots and when launched was the largest post-war British passenger ship.

In 1973 she was nearly withdrawn because of competition from big jets, but the market recovered.

However, new pressures and laws ushered in the use of plastics and artificial fabrics typified by the QE2.

Cruise buffs criticised even Canberra as inferior to its predecessors. But such is its mystique that P&O said yesterday it would only be sold on condition it was never again used as a passenger liner. The company did not want it to become a travesty of its old stories.

In her Falklands service, she was fearfully nicknamed "the great white whale" because her size made her vulnerable to bombing.

In 1994 she gave Royal

British Legion veterans a touch of opulence when taking them to Normandy for the D-Day commemorations.

Gwyn Hughes, managing director of P&O Cruises, said: "We very much hope the vessel will not be scrapped."

"Various organisations have approached us about possible uses for the ship. These include her becoming a floating hotel or a visitor centre."

"We are now discussing all these possibilities and hope to make a decision in the next few months."

"Canberra is now an elderly lady and although she remains a much-loved ship, no vessel can continue in service indefinitely." She will be replaced by the 63,500-tonne Star Princess, which will be renamed Arcadia.

Canberra will make her final round-the-world voyage between January and April next year before returning to Britain for her final season of UK-based cruises. Her 20-night farewell cruise will sail from Southampton for the eastern Mediterranean on September 10, 1997.

'Family first' claim in race case over coveted Ford jobs

GARY YOUNG

WHILE workers at Ford's largest British car plant have been allowed to maintain their privileged status and high wages at the expense of black and Asian colleagues, an industrial tribunal heard yesterday.

White employees at the Dagenham plant in Essex were three times more likely than non-white colleagues to be transferred to coveted jobs as £32,000-a-year lorry drivers, the hearing at Stratford, east London, was told.

Between 40 and 45 per cent of the plant's manual workforce was of ethnic minority origin, but only 2 per cent of those were on the truck fleet.

Robin Allen, representing seven black and Asian workers at Dagenham for the

Transport and General Workers' Union, said all were turned down for the truck fleet although one had a heavy goods vehicle licence and two qualified soon after being refused the job.

In 1990, when the seven were refused jobs as lorry drivers, only five out of 29 successful applicants were from ethnic minorities. Some 148 white workers applied and 53 non-whites.

The seven claim that in 1985 the truck recruitment process showed no sign of the attitude of Ford's management to ethnic minorities had changed. He argued that Ford's attitude was the consequence of the wishes of the truck force, adding: "The truck fleet has allowed recruitment to take place on the basis of family ties."

The hearing continues today.

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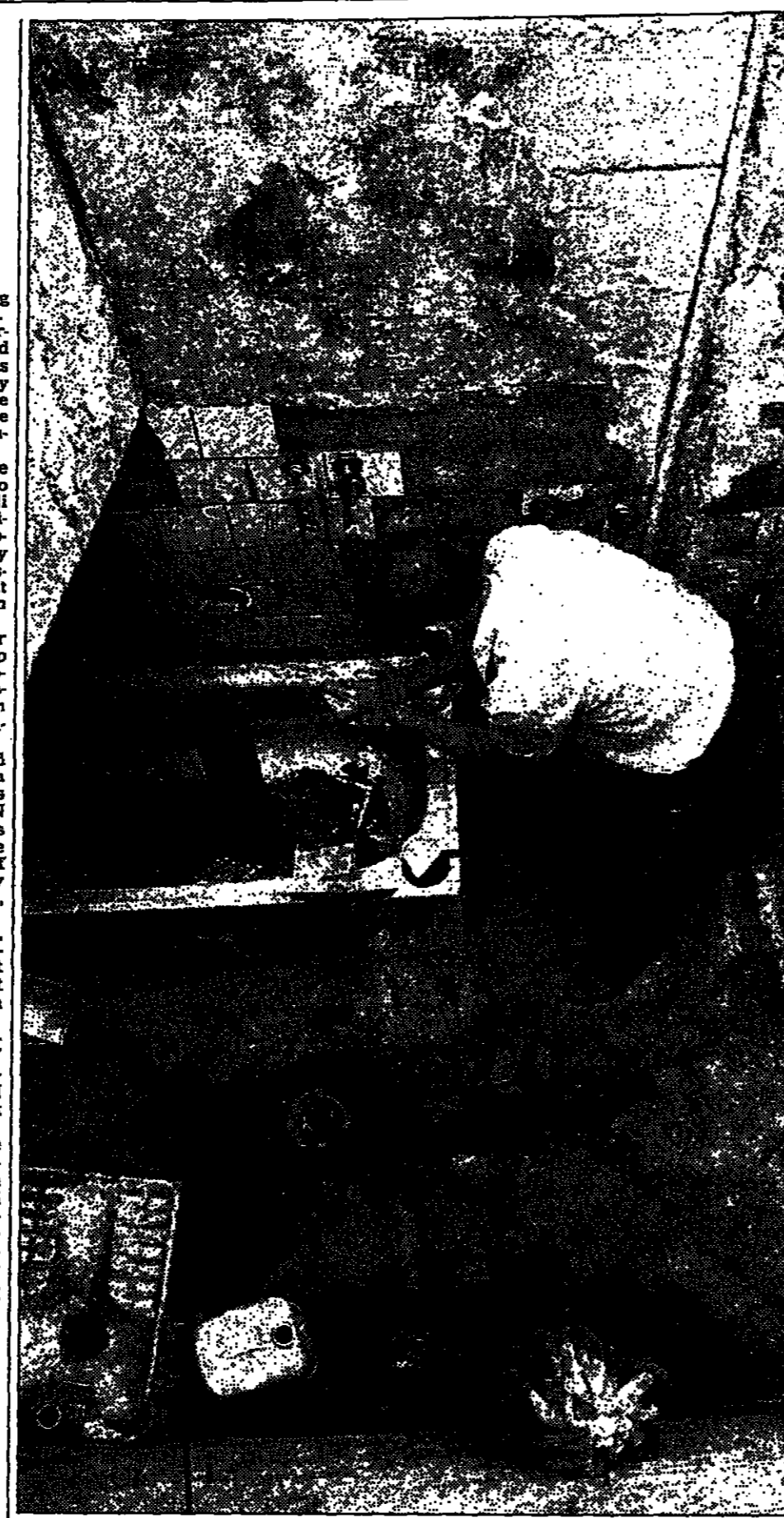
6 WORLD NEWS

Major goes quiet on UN leadership

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

THE secretary-general of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, met John Major last night but conspicuously won neither public praise nor a clear British endorsement of his candidacy for a second term.

Insisting a new, reforming hand was needed at the helm, Britain was publicly embarrassed and privately angered by the US move, which was widely seen as a politically motivated response to the highlighting of the UN by the Republican presidential contender, Bob Dole.



Charred remains... Omer Insirovic, a Bosnian Muslim, washes his hands in his bathroom in Dubnica, near Tuzla, yesterday after returning to his home, burnt down in 1992

Date for poll in Bosnia agreed

Reuters in Vienna

THE head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said yesterday that Bosnia's first post-war elections would take place on September 14.

More purges by Yeltsin as Lebed gets stronger

David Hearst in Moscow

ALEXANDER LEBED, a two-star general who was a minor player on the Russian political stage until 10 days ago, received sweeping powers yesterday to name top military appointments according to UN council of which he is secretary in a mini-politburo.

defence, Pavel Grachev, President Boris Yeltsin also announced that the security council of which Mr Lebed is secretary will have greater powers and a permanent staff of 183 advisers.

Last week Mr Lebed secured the dismissal of the three most powerful men behind Mr Yeltsin, his chief bodyguard General Alexander Korzhakov, General Mikhail Barsukov, the head of the federal security service and Oleg Soskovets, the deputy prime minister.

Warnings of the decline of the beret come as France digests news of a falling consumption in baguettes — down from 500 grams a day in 1945 to 160 grams today.

paper, Argumenti i Facti, said he was determined to form a new team likely to be more popular with voters.

French mourn decline of the beret

Alex Duval Smith in Paris

FRENCH institutions like baguettes and Gauloises may be in decline, but few bemoaned the passing of military service. Until this week, that is, when it became clear that France's beret industry is reeling at the loss of 150,000 conscripts a year.

days, I can't see how civilian orders can make up for the loss of our most important client," he said. "This is the worst thing that has happened since car heaters encouraged people to take their hats off."

Berets spread worldwide because Oloron Sainte Marie, where Beighan and Bétex are based, is on the pilgrim's route to Santiago de Compostella in Spain.

between 15 and 40 years in jail for corruption yesterday and ordered them to pay up to \$30 million (283 million) in fines and repayments of stolen money. — Reuters.

Daggers out in Pasok election

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE'S ruling Pasok party has plunged into crisis on the eve of a congress to elect a successor to the former prime minister, Andreas Papandreu, who will be buried in the sound of cannons and gunfire in the capital today.

advised said, "Without it, it is unlikely that Pasok will stay united." Since assuming power, Mr Simitis has won plaudits from the international community where his pro-Western, moderate stance has been seen as a welcome departure from his predecessor's populist rhetoric and anti-European harangues.

World news in brief

Dudayev's wife seeks asylum

THE widow of the killed Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev is likely to seek asylum in Finland, a Finnish newspaper said yesterday.

China attacks Dalai Lama

China yesterday denounced the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled god-king, as a puppet of international forces opposed to Beijing and said he would never succeed in his goal of independence.

No secret love

The United States has tightened up the rules of romantic engagement between its diplomats in Moscow and Russians, telling them they have to report liaisons immediately. — Reuters.

Crime ring bust

Turkish prosecutors in Istanbul were questioning 11 people yesterday after police smashed a crime ring involving army and police officers, a court official said. — Reuters.

Yiddish finale

The world's last daily Yiddish newspaper, Unzer Wort (Our Word), which was published in Paris, will fold at the end of this month, victim of rising costs which killed several bigger French dailies in past years, the staff said yesterday. — Reuters.

Last camp shut

Malaysia closed the last of its camps for Vietnamese boat people yesterday, but UN officials noted that it was merely the first of many countries in the region to do so. — Reuters.

\$83m fines

A Kuwaiti court sentenced three former oil executives to

Advertisement for the Daihatsu Fourtrak SUV. The ad features a large image of the vehicle at the top left and a dense, repeating pattern of the word 'DISCOVERY' in various orientations and sizes throughout the rest of the ad. Text includes 'The Daihatsu Fourtrak. Rated Top 4x4 in the BBC Top Gear 1996. Customer Satisfaction Survey.' and 'THE DAIHATSU FOURTRAK' at the bottom.

US fur Britain nuclear (continued)
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US fury at Britain's nuclear plan

Martin Walker in Washington

BRITAIN was accused of "unbelievable perfidy" and "getting its revenge for Northern Ireland" by independent US arms control experts yesterday, as the US delegation voted against the British plan for a compromise at the Geneva talks on a comprehensive test ban treaty.

The American delegates, official and independent, were furious at what British officials insist was a genuine last-ditch attempt to secure a comprehensive test ban treaty before Friday's deadline for the nuclear pact.

British sources denied yesterday that they were at loggerheads with the Clinton administration and the state department, but are nervous that if the treaty founders, Britain is being cast as the scapegoat.

The US in Geneva voted against a compromise, which had been backed by Britain, Russia and Pakistan. The suspense is now mounting for the three days that remain before the United Nations deadline if the treaty is to be agreed and endorsed at the general assembly this year, a date which would also allow President Clinton to claim a diplomatic success in the weeks before his election day.

"The negotiations are at a critical stage. We are working closely with our allies," a state department spokesman said.

The CTB treaty has always been a dual instrument; a way to prevent proliferation to new nuclear powers and an arms control device to stop the five admitted nuclear powers from testing their weapons.

The British have concentrated on producing a deal that the non-admitted nuclear powers of India, Pakistan and Israel can all support. The US negotiators are stressing the need for a strong verification and inspection regime.

Over the weekend, Britain stunned the US negotiators by supporting a Chinese proposal for much softer verification measures, arguing that this was a price worth paying to get India, Pakistan and Israel to sign and ratify the treaty. But when India announced that it would not sign, the heart of the British policy collapsed, even as the Americans were denouncing "British perfidy".

"Britain's actions, in direct defiance of its supposed closest ally, go way beyond the particulars of the treaty negotiations. This is payback time for what the Clinton administration did over Northern Ireland, and payback for the US taking Britain's nuclear options off the table. This is bad blood," Michael Crapon of the Stimson Centre, one of the leading arms control think-tanks, said.

"Britain is the world's leading purveyor of plutonium, and it is a fantastic exercise in hypocrisy for Britain to plead that it is trying to stop proliferation," Chris Payne, of the National Resources Defence Council, another of the non-governmental organisations, said.

Negotiators are still hoping to hammer out a compromise, based on new proposals from the Dutch chairman, Jaap Rasmaker. One proposal would put monitoring stations in 37 countries, including the three non-declared nuclear powers, and another would bring the treaty into effect automatically once it is ratified by 75 countries.

Broadcasters face ire of Likud

A media sell-off threatens journalists who failed to endorse Netanyahu's campaign, writes Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem

IN WHAT many Israelis see as a thinly veiled attempt to settle scores, Benjamin Netanyahu's new government is threatening the state-owned broadcasting company with privatisation.

The Israeli Broadcasting Authority has been accused of leftwing bias by ministers after journalists failed to endorse Mr Netanyahu during May's election campaign.

Mr Netanyahu himself has held back from criticising television and radio for supporting the former Labour government of Shimon Peres. But his minister of communications, Limor Livnat, says the political prejudice of the IBA is "scandalous".

"They did everything to help Shimon Peres win the elections," Mr Livnat said in a recent interview. "It's not fair that taxpayers should support such an important media organisation that fails to meet the standards of objectivity."

The immediate consequence of privatising the IBA would be the loss of hundreds of journalists' jobs. The government's argument is that the organisation is overstuffed and overdue for streamlining. Privatisation, it argues, leads to competition and improved quality.

Israel's right wing has

long accused the media of slavishly following the dictates of the left wing. Mr Netanyahu and his team remember all too clearly a pre-election television interview with a Hamas terrorist, Mohammed Abu Wardah, who was arrested by Palestinian security agents after a series of suicide bombings.

Mr Abu Wardah said during the interview: "We in Hamas believe that by stepping up terrorist attacks we are helping Netanyahu and the right wing in Israel to win the elections."

Opinion polls before the elections repeatedly showed that terrorist attacks against Israel

weakened support for Mr Peres and his Labour government and benefited Mr Netanyahu. The attacks appeared to have undermined Israelis' confidence in their government's peace deals with the Palestinians.

"The Abu Wardah interview was a cheap and low gimmick," Israel's widely respected commentator Nahum Barnea said. "Also it was an insult to the intelligence of the Israelis."

Mr Barnea, who lost his son in a suicide attack in Jerusalem last March, claims Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority staged the interview in an attempt to influence Israeli voters.

On the eve of independence day, Mr Netanyahu telephoned Amnon Nadav, the head of national radio, Kol Yisrael (the Voice of Israel), to complain that he

was not receiving fair coverage. Mr Netanyahu was particularly angry at the decision to air an interview with him late at night, long past prime time. Radio sources claim that Mr Netanyahu's confidence in their government's peace deals with the Palestinians.

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News in brief

East African leaders ready to intervene in Burundi

A SUMMIT of East African leaders pressurised Burundi's Tutsi-dominated government yesterday into agreeing to some form of foreign intervention — possibly military — to halt civil war, writes Chris McGreal in Johannesburg.

The meeting was called after Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian president and an international mediator in the crisis, said talks had reached an impasse over the Burundi government's refusal to cede power to the Hutu majority and to negotiate with increasingly effective rebel groups.

Amnesty International estimates that more than 1,000 people are dying each month

in widening Hutu rebel raids or massacres by the mainly Tutsi army. The summit of five presidents from the region agreed that a commission will explore the scope for intervention. The Tanzanian president, Benjamin Mkapa, said it will be aimed at bringing an immediate halt to violence.

Burundi's Tutsi prime minister, Antoine Nduwayo, has consistently refused either to permit foreign troops on his country's soil, except for Organisation of African Unity observers, or to talk to the rebels. But his remarks after the summit indicated that military intervention, favoured by neighbouring Tanzania, is not ruled out.

Freud family flees Morocco for France

THREE relatives of the late Moroccan interior minister, Mohammed Oufkir, reached France yesterday after fleeing Morocco.

King Hassan had forbidden them to leave ever since Oufkir died in a coup attempt in 1972 in which Moroccan air force planes tried to shoot down the king's aircraft.

Oufkir's daughter, Maria, aged 34, arrived at Orly airport with her adopted son, aged three, and an aunt.

French radio stations said the group was smuggled out of Morocco a week ago by a French businessman on a boat that sailed to the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, east of Tangier on the North African coast. They were then flown by helicopter to the Spanish mainland.

Oufkir, a power behind Hassan's throne for many years, was officially said to have committed suicide after the failed coup in which air force planes attacked the king's aircraft as it returned from abroad.

Hassan's political foes and foreign media said Oufkir was shot by firing squad without trial along with half a dozen other generals.

Members of Oufkir's family were detained without trial until 1981 when they were released after a campaign by human rights groups. — Reuters.

Dutch oppose deal with Iran over Rushdie

THE Dutch government spoke out yesterday against a possible European Union compromise with Iran which may accept the *fatawa* against the British writer Salman Rushdie.

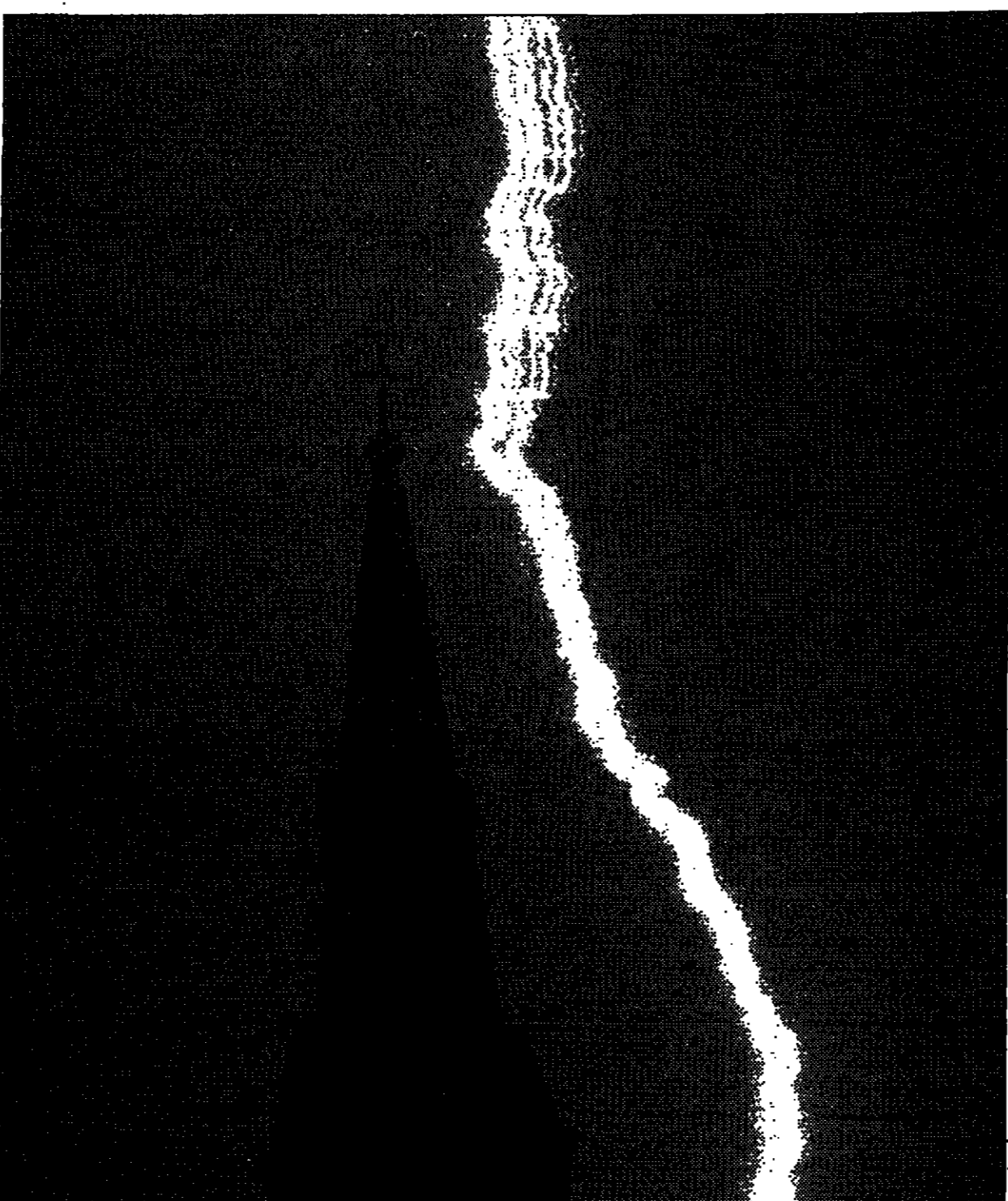
The Dutch foreign minister Hans van Mierlo said a meeting between himself and Mr Rushdie on Monday had agreed "that the EU should not accept any formulation in which the death sentence would be accepted".

Yesterday's statement came after revelations on Monday that a majority of EU members now support a compromise under which Iran could be offered recognition of the continuing "validity and irrevocability" of the *fatawa* in exchange for written guarantees from Tehran that it will not carry out the death edict.

The Dutch government claims to know nothing of the planned compromise, but says it will continue to register its opposition with other EU members against the possibility of such a deal being offered.

In an interview with the Amsterdam newspaper *Het Parool*, Mr Rushdie said a compromise would be "counterproductive" and immoral.

"If the EU is thinking of such a deal I would recommend that they think again," he added. "I can see that Europe is very bored with the issue and is desperate to get it off the agenda." — AP.



Heavens open... Lightning streaks across the sky above the steeple of a church in St. Joseph, Missouri. The storm brought damaging winds and flooding to much of the Midwest this week. PHOTOGRAPH: TIM SCHOON

New Zealand awaits poll chaos

Giles Wilson in Wellington

A FEW yards from the New Zealand parliament is an earthquake fault line which may one day give the country's politicians a very nasty turn. For the moment, however, they have their hands full coping with a shake-up of a different kind, delivered not by nature but by the New Zealand public.

The general election to be held in October, will be the first since a referendum cast aside the Westminster-style first-past-the-post system in favour of proportional representation.

While the ruling National Party has a healthy lead in the polls and will probably do well enough to have won under the old system, it will now have to find one or more coalition partners to stay in power.

The picture is further complicated by the rise of the rightwing nationalist party New Zealand First, led by the charismatic Maori, Winston Peters. Shown by polls to be the country's most preferred candidate for prime minister, Mr Peters has won support from the disaffected and the elderly by opposing foreign investment and immigration, particularly from Asia.

High on personality but low on published policy — he speaks for his party on eight separate portfolios — Mr Peters is unpredictable. But PR has meant he could decide the result of the election.

The Mixed Member Proportional system (MMP) that New Zealand has adopted is based on the electoral set-up

in Germany, and gives parties the right to nominate whom they want to sit in parliament. Maori activists, union leaders and party insiders seem destined for seats to be won by the country's most famous radio talkshow host, Pam Cokerly, who has given up her job to fight the election for the Alliance party. A well-known left-winger who fought last year to become mayor of Auckland, she says she decided to run after years listening to tales of hardship from callers to her show.

"I could carry on broadcasting for the rest of my life, and it might not amount to as much as signing just one piece of legislation to keep a kindergarten going," she said.

Some of the biggest problems posed by MMP are for the Labour Party, rumouring a poor third in polls behind the National Party and New Zealand First. While it would happily lead a coalition, it is more likely on current form to end up as a minority partner.

There is no doubt Labour would have serious problems allowing itself to be led by Winston Peters as prime minister. Its other main option would be to enter a coalition with its old Tory foe, the National Party — a scenario that has not been universally dismissed.

Bryan Gould, now vice-chancellor of Waikato University, believes things will be tricky for Labour. "Labour will find it extremely difficult to be a junior partner in a coalition, as it still carries the baggage of being the major

opposition party," he said. "It would be a humiliation, because it would suggest that Labour no longer has that claim on voters' allegiances."

The party has not recovered from being kicked out of office in 1990, after its rightwing reforms improved the economy but largely dismantled the welfare state. When the National Party took over, voters found they got more of the same.

Mr Gould added: "New Zealand is such a small system with no checks and balances — it's unicameral, with no

written constitution — so when the two major parties agreed on an extreme programme of reform, I think that's when people said they were going to have to do something about it."

If stability was what voters were after when they chose PR, they may well be disappointed. With three-year fixed-term parliaments and several parties jostling for position, the country could be in for perpetual campaigning. It is conceivable that voters may come to regret adopting PR altogether.

Women lose in Algeria's war

The punishment for un-Islamic females is the same as that for males: death. John-Thor Dahlburg reports from Algiers

FOR puritanism, ferocity, method and mayhem, none of Africa's present conflicts match the civil war in Algeria. This may be the only conflict in history where hairdressers are in a special risk category because they make women more attractive to men.

Teachers risk their lives teaching "un-Islamic" subjects such as music or French. Midwives, female doctors who treat male patients (and male doctors who treat women), girls and young women who attend school or wear skirts or try to have careers may pay with their lives.

As many as 50,000 people may have died in the civil war since January 1992, when the army-dominated government cancelled elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was on its way to winning.

when Algeria's Islamic movement emerged as the preferred vehicle for discontent with the one-party state and its inability to deal with problems such as rising unemployment and a young, fast-growing population.

Islamic firebrands promoted ideals of brotherhood, justice, Muslim morality in public life and jobs and housing for all: a fresh wind in a stagnating society.

In 1990, the first multi-party elections since independence were held. The FIS won 43 million votes to the FLN's 2.2 million in the contest for local councils and took command of almost all the big towns.

Proclaiming its municipalities "Islamic communes", the FIS began to implement its vision of a Muslim society. Women were banned from public places such as cultural centres and bars (except for local councils and took command of almost all the big towns).

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public they would be considered military targets. Two students, aged 17 and 18, were killed by gunmen on a motorbike as they stood, unveiled, waiting for a bus.

But modesty wasn't all the insurgents demanded. Rebels began forcing girls and young women to "marry" them temporarily, a privilege they claim as *mohajedin*, or Islamic holy warriors.

Refuses may mean abduction, and worse. In the Blida region, the bodies of two sisters, aged 15 and 21, were found at the side of a road. They had reportedly been gang-raped and decapitated after apparently refusing to consent to such a "marriage".

Despite claims that the menace is gradually abating, it is still a brave Algerian who smokes, reads French-language newspapers, goes to the hairdresser or Turkish bath, listens to the radio or music, drinks alcohol, goes to the cinema, wears shorts, performs military service, has a friend in the police, or even sings. All, at one time or another, have been branded *un-Islamic*. — *Los Angeles Times*.

France is cutting financial aid to Algeria by half to Fr3 billion (\$387 million), Le Monde said yesterday.

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'Virtual university' to open doors

STUDENTS in the United States could be studying for degrees at a "virtual university" next year after a group of state governors pledged to establish the first such educational institution on the Internet, writes Ian King in New York.

The new university will allow people to study for a

degree from their own homes or workplaces, downloading assignments and lectures from the Internet and submitting their work by e-mail.

"This is not a replacement for the existing system of higher education," said Utah's governor, Michael Leavitt. "It's a way of creating new choices and opportunities."

A Special Announcement

An Autumn visit to the Rose Red City of Petra and a relaxing few days on the Red Sea - 7 nights from £395

Starting in September, we shall be inaugurating a direct, non-stop flight series with Royal Jordanian Airlines from London Gatwick to Amman which enables us to combine a visit to the rose red city of Petra with a relaxing stay in Agaba on the Red Sea. To mark the occasion we are making available a limited number of places at a special tariff from £395 per person in a twin.

Our visit to the Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan includes three nights in Petra at the Forum Guest House (situated close to the entrance to Petra), three nights in Agaba at the Alcazar Hotel and one night in Amman at the Philadelphia Hotel.

Ever since the Swiss explorer Burchard rediscovers Petra by chance in 1812, romantic travellers have made their way to Petra, the unique city of the Nabataeans, Romans and Crusaders. This land has excited the imagination of the British since the days of Lawrence of Arabia and even before that when Victorian travellers would take many weeks to reach the site of Petra. Our journey is the perfect opportunity for those who

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Half Board supplement at Petra - £18
Half-day Wadi Rum with lunch £39
Half-day Jerash £29 - Little Petra £16

Flight Supplements
First Class £200 - Club Class £100

Price includes: return flights, 7 nights accommodation in a twin and breakfast, transfers and transportation, local representative services, National Travel Insurance, entrance fees to Petra, visa, airport taxes, tipping. Please note that the sequential order of the stops may change.

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Irrelevant and unpopular

Major's education reforms ignore urgent needs

GILLIAN Shephard could not have been clearer or more succinct: her party is politically exposed; Labour has a huge lead in the opinion polls on education policies; improving standards is far more crucial than the structure of the secondary system; and yet the Government remains obsessed with the mechanics of delivering education.

university but some East Asian states now send 75 per cent of school-leavers into higher education. How are we going to compete?

The main indictment of yesterday's proposals is their irrelevance. They are not, as the Prime Minister urged, going to produce a new grammar school in every town or vastly increase selection in schools. There is no money for a vast swathe of new schools. Opted-out schools will be able to select up to 50 per cent of their pupils by ability but, as only 41 out of 1,034 grant-maintained schools have opted to select even 10 per cent of their intake (the current ceiling), fears that giving them the right will mean they will exercise it seem unfounded.

There is a popular myth on the continent that all Englishmen are gay. How would the tabloid press and England supporters react to a German newspaper pasting Gazza's head on a photograph of a man in a bra, stockings and suspenders on the front page, with the headline, 'Come and get it boys (in German)'?

A hard case that makes bad law

Changes to the Defamation Bill must be reviewed in the Lords

THE GOVERNMENT'S Defamation Bill is a generally sensitive attempt to impose practical rules upon the difficult relationship between the media and those who allege they have been defamed by them.

As a British citizen resident in Germany for five years, and quite used to German incomprehension as to British concerns on the future of the European Union, it is increasingly clear to me that German opinion links the mindless stupidity of the British tabloids, or football hooligans, and British opposition to European federalism in one package.

As the respondent in a case brought by Neil Hamilton MP which is potentially affected by it, this newspaper must admit to a special interest in the new clause, which was introduced by Lord Hoffmann in the Lords on May 7 and approved by a majority of 264-201 votes in the Commons on Monday night.

To legislate on such matters in the way that Parliament is now doing goes against all these wise principles. The Hoffmann clause was produced at a late stage of the bill's proceedings in the Lords. It was endorsed this week in highly confusing procedural circumstances.

Football as it should be played

Tonight's game offers an escape from a tabloid agenda

TONIGHT England and Germany meet at Wembley for a football match but also, for good or ill, a contest of national pride. There is nothing wrong with that. Bonding and shared national experiences are the prized expressions of nationhood.

remove the scourge of racism that used to infect so many terraces.

This cleansing spirit has helped to uplift the atmosphere at Wembley where the organisers have so far sublimated the passions of the fans into singing songs amid regular screen reminders to respect the opponents.



Letters to the Editor

Sorry Mr Lilley, the answer is no

Don't be beastly to the Germans

THERE is not a "bogus" argument left which has not been employed by this malicious government in its dealing with asylum-seekers.

DO THE tabloids not realise that attacks such as that in Monday's Daily Mirror are more likely to unite the German players than demoralise them?

THIS distasteful phenomenon is not confined to reporting of football. There is no pretence of balance in much of what is written on matters of national importance concerning the EU on financial, political or policy matters.

ON Sunday I attended a gathering of the Protz clan. We are descended from Johann Vincenz Protz, who came to England from the Black Forest in 1856 and settled in east London to work as a cabinet maker.

he gave our bowler the charge and promptly lost his off stump. He took no further part in the match (which we won by 5 wickets).

In the case against Lilley over the withdrawal of benefits for most asylum-seekers, even the dissenting judge in the Court of Appeal, Lord Justice Neill, accepted that "the regulations will also have a very serious effect on a considerable number of genuine asylum-seekers".

THE Football Supporters' Association, formed in 1985 after the events of Haysal, has worked tirelessly towards the aim of friendship through football, and in the fight against racism and hooliganism in the game.

Little did we realise that the following morning the tabloid press would be filled with the same kind of racist taunts that filled the Protzes with fear more than 80 years ago, because England and Germany are playing football.

PERHAPS the organisers of Euro 96 could withdraw from those newspapers responsible for the xenophobic nonsense of recent days the facilities normally given to the press. I am sure that the affected journalists would be happy to accept public tickets offered to them by the German FA.

As a Lord Justice Simon Brown said in the Court of Appeal, "a significant number of genuine asylum-seekers now find themselves faced with a bleak choice: whether to remain here destitute and homeless until their claims are finally determined or whether instead to abandon their claims and return to face the very persecution they have fled".

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MAY be able to offer an explanation as to Piers Morgan's behaviour. Last Sunday, our cricket team, the London Unity, played Newick CC, and a certain Pugh-Morgan (sic) batted number three, looking rather uncomfortable against the sustained onslaught of our bowlers, he decided that attack was the best form of defence.

RICHARD Williams lays into the tabloids for all the Spanish jokes (Spain have a beef with the tabloids' beasts and butchers, June 22). If he wants to see more of this stuff, he should read David Leach's 'The Press' (Venus).

Price is right

YOUR article (Adland) smokescreen, June 24) perpetuates a myth concerning the 1992 election campaign.

More Bush war

I AM impelled to write to express my deep concern at the rumours of the threatened closure of the BBC's World Service drama department.

Jennings comes up trumps

I WAS intrigued by Smallweed's theory (Outlook, June 22) that there might have been some villainy involving Jennings and Darbishire's poetry.

A Country Diary

TAMAR VALLEY: Glossy strawberries in white plastic punnets and bunches of pink tempt passers-by to the roadside stall overlooking the tidal river.

PETER Lilley's response to the Court of Appeal judgment is to use the power of the executive to overturn the ruling of the court. Effective and sustainable government depends upon the checks and balances which are created by constitutional arrangements being honoured by all parties.

Why is it that when any cuts are to be made, drama is instantly targeted? Radio plays are unique and they are relatively cheap to make.

his chances of winning one prize or the other — or both. I don't think we shall ever know the truth. When writing this episode in Jennings and Darbishire, I didn't think of this additional ploy to confuse the jury.

MATTHEW Engel (A corrupt and demented newspaper, June 25) is quite right about the xenophobes of the tabloid press. It is not just fun. It has created a climate in which the Government can hope to starve out asylum-seekers just because they do not belong to what Lady Black quantity calls "our established people".

There is a national 24-hour postal strike from noon tomorrow. But we are confident that our readers will use technology and ingenuity to communicate with us as usual.

den as, back home in Boetheric, his crop was almost finished. He visited Glasgow and learnt how to make white-wood punnets for packing the fragile fruit and, within a few years, Tamar strawberries were established in London and Midland markets, selling for 2s 6d per lb compared with 6d a pound locally.

As an eighty-year-old in the autumn of 1945, I can remember collecting money to avoid famine in Germany. If I look for those values today it is in Germany rather than in Britain that I find them.

Matthew Engel claims that the World Service has ever been impartial. Not quite. In the early days of the Iranian revolution, when a habit of announcing the time and place of upcoming demonstrations. Enough said.

air was filled with the scent of strawberries, loaded in boxes onto horse-drawn wagons converging on Cotahela quay to be ferried across to Devon for the next stage to Bere Alston railway station.

Lord Russell, House of Lords, London SW1A 0AA.

DR KIM Howells described the Government's proposals to privatise the direct-mail service of the Post Office as "absolutely outrageous" (June 25). Is it not heading his demand in the New Statesman (June 7): "Brothers and sisters, embrace competition!"

VIRGINIA SPIERS

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

John Redwood

Diary

Matthew Norman

ONLY hours before the balloon goes up, the Column That Supports Our Boys has obtained a document of potentially unimaginable import. The Vogts Diaries, which were discovered only yesterday in the dungeons of a spooky Bavarian castle, purport to be the secret thoughts of morose German coach Bertie Vogts in recent weeks. Early entries — written in a slender Gothic hand — show signs of paranoia ("June 9: Zey keeps saying zat I — alone of all German coaches — have you nazi-sink. Schveini! Schveini!"); however, a note of calm later appears. "June 22: Ze leads done well first half, ven ze Croats come at ze early doors." The final entry, dated yesterday, betrays a confidence bordering on arrogance. "Ze only team zat worries me is ze French. Mind you, zey have an excellent defense," it reads. "Mind you, zey thought that in 1940. Ha ha. No, just my little joke!" Naturally, questions are raised (why, for example, does Vogts write as though applying to be a scriptwriter on Allo Allo?). However, Daily Mail editor Paul Dacre, a leading expert on everything, is categorical. "There can be no possible doubt about their authenticity," said the former Paul Trevor-Roper yesterday.

AT the Daily Mirror, meanwhile, creative editor Piers "Gutter" Morgan is in disgrace (with hindsight, he must accept that the planned mustard-gas attack on Hamburg was a step too far). How lucky, at such a time, to have the calming influence of his deputy, Frank Morgan, who is close at hand. Just before Germany's quarter final on Sunday, Mr Parsons was on the back bench: "Find out how many Serbs there are in the Croatian team," he screamed, "and if the Croatians ever pass to them."

BUT enough of football. Elsewhere, sane and rational Paul Johnson's number-one oracular ranking is threatened. The challenger is Martin Amis, the first of whose series of Wimbledon articles appeared in the London Evening Standard on Monday. Mr Amis singled out three Americans as potential champions — Michael Chang (lost on Monday in four sets), Jim Courier (lost on Monday in four sets) and Andre Agassi (lost on Monday in four sets). Tin hats aloft!

RIGHT then, back to the football. I am shocked to learn that David Irving, the historian who will use if described as a Hitler apologist, has gone Awol. "I can tell you now, he won't be watching Wednesday's match," said a nice woman at his Mayfair flat, adding that he has fled to Florida. "He hates the football, and I don't know who he'd prefer to win, I'm afraid." On his return, Mr Irving will immediately be interned on the Isle of Man.

BUT why on earth become obsessed with football, when we have the chance to celebrate a new Policy Statement on long-term environmental concerns and cuttings from Westminster? The document is 371 pages long, and is printed on non-recycled paper.

FINALLY, then, we return to the football, and to an inspirational instance of its insouciant best. In Biggles Defies The Swastika, squadron leader James Bigglesworth has infiltrated the Gestapo in Norway. However, while in the air, a certain Schaffer blows his identity, and the two come to blows ("if there is one thing a man cannot do," writes Captain John, sagely, "it is to fly an aeroplane and fight at the same time"). Pandemonium ensues until, with immense élan, Biggles persuades Schaffer to postpone the fight, and prepares to land on the sea despite a burst of anti-aircraft fire. "You English bring your nerve with you," Schaffer conceded. "No use leaving it at home," returned Biggles lightly. "Well said, sir. No use leaving it in the dressing room, either. Gentlemen, your country expects."



Continuing scandal of the food we eat

Commentary Catherine Bennett

YOU cannot play games with people's health, Jacques Santer warned Britain last week. Most of Europe seems to agree with him. Half of Germany will not eat beef from anywhere; French farmers are still rampaging about, in protest at a drastic fall in domestic beef consumption. And here? In Britain, we are meant to have stronger stomachs. Those of us who actually share the German fear of what we might eat seem and disgust for those who produced it; those who are right to be outraged by the export of banned beef, are expected, instead, to side with the guilty farmers and exporters, and approve what appears to be the end of beef hostilities. From the Government, there is still neither shame nor apology.

It is almost as if the BSE announcement and ensuing scare in March had never been. It has been rewritten, rejected, dismissed as a mo-

ment of hysteria. John Major has just described as "nonsense" a convincing Panorama exposé of a decade of Maff's dilatoriness, gulle and bombast. Maff refused to answer for its actions on that programme, yet no one followed in the press, or from the opposition. On the contrary, Tony Blair was reported at the weekend cracking "woof woof" jokes about beef-eating. In Britain, it appears, Maff will apply play games with people's health, and — better still — neither the people nor their representatives will protest. Only the farmers are to be pitied. If Maff hoped that British apathy about food would really triumph over fear, its ploys have been well justified. Overall, beef consumption is back at around 85 per cent of the level before the BSE announcement. Put calves in lorries, and angry cat-lovers will shriek at every port; put potentially infected meat in pies, and the public will shudder for a while, then start eating pies again. No incensed matrons will wave banners outside Maff's headquarters, or hurl themselves against the car bearing Stephen "no conceivable risk" Dorrell to the Department of Health. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the British beef scare, is how quickly it has become unscarier. Although the Government variant is rejected, dismissed as a mo-

hysteria, it was a matter of weeks before fearful headlines gave way to pitiful announcements about the cattle cull. "It's Mass Moo-der," and then, inexorably, to attacks on foreigners: "Germans Sabotage our Pies for Beef!" This campaign could hardly have been conducted if the British public had cared deeply about the dangers, real or imagined, of BSE. But public confidence, at first said to be so comprehensively dashed, was rapidly restored. At Sainsbury's sales fell significantly. "Then," says a spokeswoman, "we had a four-day, half-price sale, and most of our stores sold out. Since then, they've been generally creeping back up." Surveys may suggest a widespread lack of confidence, but shopping habits reveal blank indifference. "With some notable exceptions, British consumers are more concerned about price than quality," says Francis Blake of the Soil Association. "Whereas the French and Germans and other European countries are more concerned about quality." But he still professes surprise that the public's appetite could be so quickly restored. "After a scare lasting three months, it's still not having the dramatic impact that it has elsewhere."

lets, reassuring buyers that they should have no fear — their packages of beef only originate from animals under 30 months old. But this is hardly a generous gesture, being enforced by law, and neither is it wholly reassuring. Scientists still do not know whether BSE could be passed on by maternal transmission, and a government trial investigating this possibility will not be completed until November. If, as everyone hopes, British beef is eventually confirmed to be safe, the way we have responded to the scare remains an alarming illustration of our debased eating habits. It shows that the oft-announced food revolution has yet to touch most of the population, who remain addicted to cheap food, at whatever cost to livestock, the environment and their own health. As Joanna Blythman says, in her splendid book *The Food We Eat*, "the consequences of the UK's love affair with cheap food can be seen all around us. In items like bland Golden Delicious apples, watery tomatoes and heads of such staggering uniformity of character that they are hardly worth eating. Not to mention crippled turkeys and battery eggs which now contain more salmonella than they did in the days of Edwina. British indifference to food quality is usually attributed to rationing, then to a post-war food policy which put quantity and cheapness before all other considerations, but the decline in taste probably started far earlier. "English domestic cooking has never stood in high repute," wrote JC Rumford, in *The Englishman's Food*, a book which records centuries of food adulteration. "Its reputation appears to have declined during the 19th century, probably because when we acquired from the Continent the knowledge to grow garden vegetables we did not trouble to learn how to learn to cook them properly. It is one of the major tragedies of English domestic life." Today, that domestic tragedy has its wider consequences, including hideous conditions for farm animals and poultry, and a generation of food retailers who compete on price before everything — "loyalty cards", rather than food quality, are now the favoured marketing tool of rival supermarkets; before long it is predicted, they will be competing with banks, as they already compete with dry cleaners, chemists and newsagents. In the absence of any powerful food consumers' body, we are left in the hands of Maff, which as everyone knows, exists to protect the food industry, not the consumer. As the BSE scare proved, and a recent Consumers' Association paper pointed out, Maff actually works to keep consumers in ignorance. Earlier this year it congratulated itself on its "unjustified food labelling rules", in particular on having "done away with rules for fish cakes altogether". But then the British don't want to know what they themselves are eating, do they? So who can expect them to care about the quality of the cows have been given?

Our existing written constitution works perfectly well, argues John Redwood: what we need is less government, fewer quangos and more power to the people

The crowning glory

IT IS fashionable to decry Britain and the British constitution. Indeed, the public sport of knocking it all has led to a new consensus: that Britain does not have a written constitution. It is this apparent lack which the left and New Labour have seized upon, arguing that if we only had a written constitution like Germany we would be a freer, happier and more prosperous people. It has become the vogue to demand Bills of Rights, to seek to encode civil liberties, to incorporate whole European and international treaties into a new settlement. This would all be combined with new regional assemblies or parliaments, a further transfer of powers to Brussels and Frankfurt, the establishment of more quangos and the passage of more laws. The truth about Britain, her liberties and her constitution is more complex. The British constitution has evolved over many centuries. The struggles and arguments have been recorded in many documents, which have become part of our written constitution. Magna Carta, the Statute of Appeals, the Act of Settlement, the Act of Union, the Great Reform Act, local government legislation, the European Communities Act: these and many more are constitutional Acts. They deal with the problems of their day: curbing the power of the monarch, breaking from Rome, uniting the kingdoms, extending the franchise, devolving power to localities, reaching agreement with the continent. There are many words spread over many sheets of vellum and paper. Critics forget that many fundamental freedoms, what now would be called civil liberties, were first fashioned here on British soil. Habeas corpus, the right to trial by jury, and the separation of powers, spitting legislation from judiciary, were pioneered in Britain. Englishmen were proud of their freedoms. Honest administration allied to strong local and municipal government also developed early. In recent years individuals have come to enjoy the right to challenge public administration through an

Ombudsman's enquiry. This grafts a continental approach to sorting out problems with bureaucracy on to our system of redress through MPs answerable to their constituents. If anything a free press, an important cornerstone of those same liberties, has become freer and more intrusive in the daily lives of those in power in recent years. So how is it, with so much written down, and with an ever vigilant press and Parliament, that the Opposition can feel that there is something wrong with our settled constitution? It is not just a case of the Opposition's failure to win a majority in the House of Commons, although that is part of the reason why they are unhappy with the system. There has also been an erosion of our liberties in the post-war period. Since the outbreak of the second world war there has been a continuous growth in the size and reach of government itself. Many of us who never thought we would be criminals now find we can break the law by travelling at 80mph on the M25, by failing to secure a seat belt in the rear of a car, or soon by selling someone a pound of apples instead of 450 grammes. Government has limited our freedoms by passing more and more laws and has taken more and more of our earnings.

WE need to reduce the stranglehold of centralisation. I welcome new powers for school governors, to control and run their schools. I want the health reforms to succeed, where they give to each surgery, and hospital, authority over their own affairs. The sale of council houses gave tenants power. The sale of nationalised industries to their employees gave power to the lorry drivers of National Freight and the miners of Tower Colliery. More needs to be done to give the users of our free health and education services real choice. The biggest disappointment in recent years has been the attitude of local government. Councils spend over one quarter of total public spending, that's one tenth of total

national income. They can do a lot of good — or harm — with that much money. Of course once a year at Budget time you would expect an argument about how much money should be granted from the centre and how much should be raised locally, but not the same debate over the whole year. THE reluctance to lead is everywhere visible in Labour and Liberal local government. Recently some of my constituents told me that the film *Kids* should be banned from screens in our area. Local government has been given the power to decide. I sent the problem to them and asked them to use their discretion. I did not say whether the film should be banned or not, as it is their duty and not mine. I wanted them either to say clearly that they wanted no more censorship, or to say they would watch the film and see if it was unacceptable. Instead the County Council met and decided to hand the powers back to the Districts. They were too afraid to express a view. The new agenda of regional assemblies and parliaments, far from helping to govern Britain better, would exacerbate these trends. Local government would be marginalised more. Decisions currently taken locally would be taken or influenced regionally. Individuals and families would face a further erosion of their liberties, as yet more law, regulation and public spending was unleashed. Labour's answer to most things is a new quango: everything from regional development to food safety. Putting these new monsters into a regional parliament would not suddenly solve the problems of quango-accumulation. It would be no easier for a regional assembly to control them than it has proved for Parliament or local government. Britain's settled constitution is written down and it does defend many liberties. Rather than a new Bill of Rights, we need a self-denying ordinance from national politicians, not to carry on spending and legislating away our freedoms.

I find the jury not guilty

George Staple, head of the Serious Fraud Office, this week questioned the jury's role in fraud cases. Kevin Maxwell disagrees

clearly demonstrated their attention and grasp of detail. Ultimately the jury were invited by Lord Justice Phillips in his summing-up to determine the question of my honesty. As the judge said, he doubted whether any jury had had a better opportunity to determine that question, having heard evidence from me over 21 days. I would rather rely on the independent judgment of 12 individuals than professional assessors who would inevitably be involved in conflicts of interest. In the Maxwell trial, professionals including accountants, bankers, lawyers and actuaries gave evidence. Much criticism was levelled at professionals in general, and questions raised about their knowledge and responsibility for the conduct complained of — how independent could an "expert assessor" from the same small community of professionals be? Mr Staple appears to be more concerned to add to the already frightening imbalance of power between the prosecution and the defence. Not satisfied with his draconian Section 2 powers which compel defendants in serious-fraud cases to answer questions without protection against self-incrimination under penalty of imprisonment; the

Save radio from the scythe of Birt



Beatrix Campbell

SAY "wireless" and your enemies and your juniors will know you're a Radio 4 freak. They'll know that you're a person of a certain age, a certain respectability, a certain sort of citizenship. You are what you are. Which means, of course, that Radio 4 listeners are — or were — believed to be emblematically English, folks whose listening habits went with gardening, sport, reading, evening classes and holidays as composites of the national character.

But it isn't the same template of xenophobic Englishness once sponsored by Mary Whitehouse and her National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, or even fustian nationalism. Its audience is more heterogeneous than that — it may read *Gay Times* as well as the *Radio Times*, wear permanent pleats or 50/5s, go to evening classes, Texas Line Dancing and the opera. It likes Indian food and it worries about the world. Some Radio 4 freaks even watch *Blind Date* and their children have sighted *Topless Darts*. We will be hearing more from the listeners' lobbies as radio faces further Birtist reforms. Who knows how their members vote? But still, they're conservative. The great revolts which have recently shaken programme planners have been about the defence of schedules and services, programmes or presenters. They claim to have dispatched a couple of "foreigners" imported into Radio 4 and Radio 3 — Gerry Anderson (from Northern Ireland) and Paul Gambaccini (from across the Atlantic).

But the current movements among listeners do not resonate with the xenophobia that made Mary Whitehouse a household name and England fans a riotous assembly. One of the most vigorous movements was the 1991 campaign to save the name and scheduling of *Woman's Hour*. When the BBC proposed changes there was outrage. And when the early-morning farming programme was abolished in Scotland there was a formidable campaign orchestrated by Scotland's Rural Forum and the National Farmers Union and supported not only by farmers and landlords but also by country people and even city-dwellers for whom the programme carried a message to their roofs. Like *Woman's Hour*, the farming programme was part of the ecology of everyday life. Open University professor

Stuart Hall reckons that Radio 4 is a relic of a Rajitain spirit. "It was in radio that the constitutive elements of broadcasting were put together. It is associated with standards in a way that television isn't." Like Hall, the playwright David Edgar is a devoted listener. His remarkable play *Pentecost* went on on Radio 3 on Sunday. He sees — or hears — Radio 4 as being rather like a "visitor to your house and we require of it a certain politeness. What you want is rules, routine, familiarity and a cycle you can recognise." "Television viewers surf channels. Radio listeners expect a daily session and style, they tune in and stay put. "Radio audiences acquire attitudes which then have their expectations violated," says David Gauntlett, of the Institute of Communications Studies at Leeds University. Jocelyn Hay, the spokesperson for the *Voices of the Listener* and *Viewer*, insists "we are not elitist", that the campaign is defending "constructive, thoughtful, crafted programmes. We are not the moral guardians of broadcasting. But we are very concerned about the future of radio", particularly the proposed merging of radio and television production.

High-quality programming is its brief, not, they say, taste and decency. The distinction is crucial. Whitehouse attached herself to broadcasting both to attack it and to concentrate her campaign against the drift of Britain and its "high" and "low" cultures. Hay, by contrast, is defending top-gear radio as an expression of England. Her group is part of a loose coalition that is also defending radio and the structure of the BBC from the scythe of Birtism — from the World Service to public ownership of the transmitters and the vigour of public-service broadcasting.

IRONICALLY, it is the BBC and its director-general who are providing new politics of listenership, extending to the Consumers' Association and the National Consumer Council. "We worried that as commercial activity becomes more significant the BBC will run down the public activities," says the Consumers' Association. This coalition is not satisfied with the regulation of the BBC by the great and the good. Nor is it content with "complaints" as the only codification of listeners' wishes, constituting a kind of high-tech national-heritage movement. This coalition wants to bring together the Broadcasting Standards Council and the Complaints Commission into a bigger, better body with a research function and an organic connection to its constituency — the listeners. Liberated from the constraints of complaint, listeners might appear in all their diversity — less like the National Trust, more like the nation.

URGENT!
600 grants need to escape from poverty and disease

There are thousands of elderly people around the world, like Sada pictured here, who need help. But in the last month alone we have heard of 600 who are in desperate need.

Many of these people are frail and destitute. Some are in urgent need of medical attention. We most have no families they can turn to for help. And if we don't find 600 sponsors for them — some sums of these grants could die.

For just over £25 a week, you can save a life.

By sponsoring an elderly person in need, you can provide him or her with the basic essentials of life, such as food, clothing and medicine.

Waste more, your sponsorship will also support vital projects which will improve life for entire communities.

Most of all, just knowing that someone cares can make a world of difference to an elderly person in need.

To find out more, clip the coupon now and post to:

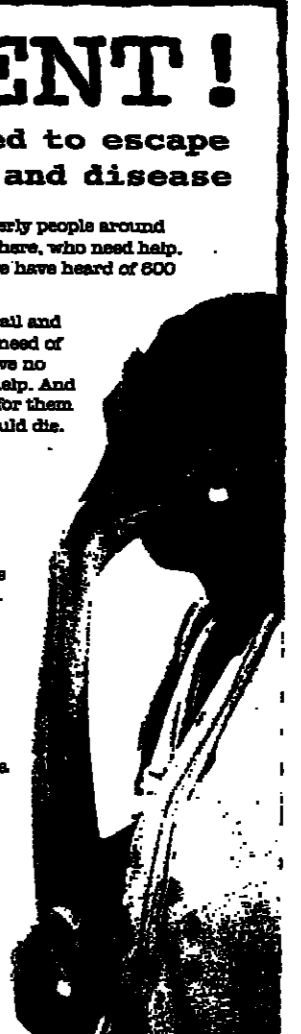
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Pasqualino de Santis

An eye for great images

PASQUALINO de Santis, one of Italy's greatest post-war cinematographers...

become a toreador. It was Rosi's first colour film and, with Di Venanzo, he scouted locations...



De Santis... Oscar winner

shoot with hand-held cameras. The Steadicam had yet to make its appearance...

Dr Alexander Langsdorf

Haunted by the Bomb

ALEXANDER Langsdorf, who has died aged 83, was one of the Manhattan Project scientists...

239 decays by electron emission into plutonium-239. The finding at the University of California at Berkeley...

Pud Brown

Hot sax in the Big Easy

OVER the past 20 years Pud Brown, the jazz clarinetist and saxophonist...



Traditional style... Pud Brown at this year's New Orleans jazz festival

as the cornet of Wes Mix and the trombone of Paul Crawford. At festival time, Brown was always hyperactive...

Throughout his life he remained convinced that the costs of shortening the war had been unnecessarily and sickeningly high...

WORK on nuclear cross-sections aided Eugene Wigner in the design of the large weapons-grade plutonium-producing reactors...

Baldev Singh Chahal

Tackling the law head on

BALDEV Singh Chahal, who has died aged 59, successfully campaigned in the mid-1970s to get legal exemption for Sikhs...

representatives of all the Sikh institutions in Britain from which sprung the Southall-based Turban Action Committee.

could have changed the law in just three years. Chahal became increasingly involved in Sikh politics...

Birthdays

Claudio Abbado, conductor, 87; Emma Porteus, costume designer, 60; Lord Rawlinson, QC, former Conservative Attorney-General, 77...

Death Notices

MAURICE Ian Stewart, on 21st June, 1996, the 20th year, all enquiries to Blackburn's Funeral Services, 118-120, St. James Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1JG.

Jackdaw



Synonym check

WE HAVE often made light of the bizarre suggestions that spellcheckers make when we run our priceless prose past their beady eyes...

Late cheque

I AM forwarding my marriage certificate and six children. I had seven, but one died which was baptised on half a sheet of paper.

Over blurb

INTERSEASONAL clothes, both transgenerational, represent at this point an industrial and

Things to do in church

Replace the pianist's sheet music with Stairway To Heaven. Hide copies of Hustler in the pulpit. Point them out. Start a wave.

Men from

Jackdaw wants jewels. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4368; Jackdaw, The Guardian, 115 Finsbury Court, London EC2R 3ER.

Handwritten signature or note at the bottom of the page.

Finance Guardian

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Faults rock nuclear sell-off

Stations under investigation for fuel problems

Paul Brown and Chris Barrie

SIX of the eight nuclear stations due to be privatised are under investigation by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) because they have developed problems with uranium fuel in the heart of the reactors.

With the Government due to unveil the price and final details of the nuclear sell-off this morning, the NII said damaged fuel pins had been found in Hunterston B in Ayr and Hinkley Point B in Somerset, and it was investigating the "long-term implications". The problem affects systems common to six of the seven advanced gas-cooled stations, which are crucial to

the long-term profitability of the industry which is being privatised as British Energy.

The stations not suspected of having the damage are Sizewell B and Dungeness B, which have a slightly different fuel design but are the worst performing of all the nuclear stations.

The company has warned repeatedly that its ability to keep its stations running is fundamental to its finances. The NII statement followed a letter from a "group of professional scientific staff" within British Energy to the Guardian. They said they feared for their jobs and their pensions if their identities were discovered but felt, for public safety reasons, that the fault needed to be disclosed.

Investigation "into wear on fuel pins resulting from fuel brace fretting and is satisfied that the AGR stations remain safe to operate". The NII is requesting information from the company "regarding longer term implications and actions on the issue".

Fundamental to the inquiry is whether the reactors can continue to be run at full load or whether the damage to the pins means that power output, and therefore income, would be reduced. The NII said that, on the eve of privatisation, it could not comment.

In the prospectus for the sell-off the problem with the fuel pins is mentioned as a subject for an inquiry by the company. But the prospectus advises potential investors that it has only been found so

far at Hunterston B. BE refused to comment in detail last night, but said "all material aspects of the business are included in the prospectus" issued to potential investors.

The trade and industry department said the problem with the AGR fuel rods was known. Ministers and BE management had said that safety was paramount.

The scientists told the Guardian that, two weeks ago, the problem was discovered to be far worse than has been disclosed.

The damage to the inside of the fuel pin is probably

caused by vibration as the cooling carbon dioxide is pumped round the system. In an emergency shut-down, damaged fuel pins could break, releasing fission products into the cooling gas which is then vented into the atmosphere. It could then contaminate the area downwind of the reactor.

The scientists say "the numbers of fuel pins falling in an accident would be many times greater than the safety case allowed for".

The scientists go on to claim that action to reduce the power output from the reactors has been delayed because of the privatisation. "The imminent privatisation means that this problem and its inevitable consequences are being covered up."

Notebook

Psion deal a mark of UK excellence



Edited by Alex Brummer

MUCH of the focus on the proposed £200 million absorption of Amstrad by Psion is on the demise of Alan Sugar's business empire, rather than the creation of a new centre of UK technological excellence.

Although Psion's palmtop computers have not yet turned into Microsoft, the company is developing a dominant position in the palmtop market where it has a market share of 33 per cent. In fact, the story of David Potter's company is one which speaks volumes for the educational quality of those in advanced technology and the ability to convert ideas into products which people want.

Earlier this year Mr Potter, whose company has managed to produce compound growth of 35 per cent since it was founded in 1980, took the strategic decision to license its technology to big players in the US and elsewhere, rather than risk the fate of other hi-tech groups such as Apple which have been marginalised by bigger players with more marketing clout.

Adding Amstrad to Psion is part of the process of survival in a competitive climate. Amstrad has some highly developed marketing skills but, as importantly, it also has a telephone technology which will enable Psion to improve its range so it can compete with rivals, such as Nokia, in the fast-growing field of pocket computers with a full range of communications possibilities from e-mail to fax.

Psion is expected to hang on to Amstrad's PC company Vigen, although the consumer products side will be sold off.

The money aspects remain vague, except that Psion will gain Amstrad's cash horde of \$30 million which, together with its own resources and a new share issue, will help finance the deal. As for Alan Sugar, he will become the second largest shareholder and prefer his expertise from outside the boardroom.

Competition will eventually force the banks to offer the service free of charge.

However, the drift towards electronic payments is inexorable. Payment by plastic is just a way of triggering electronic payments. Carrying stored value on the plastic card itself is a logical step forward.

Visa and Mastercard the two largest consumer payment systems, are also working with the likes of Microsoft and IBM to develop a secure on-line payments system which will open the floodgates for shopping via the internet.

The crunch decision for the UK banks will be whether to back Mondex or Visa Cash since the two systems are not compatible. Although Mondex will be available first, the odds must be in favour of the latter. Visa is widely used and trusted by banks, retailers and consumers.

Bearing witness

IT is a measure of the corrupted atmosphere in which fraud trials are currently discussed that Kevin Maxwell's article in today's Guardian — in which he passionately criticises the idea of taking jurors out of the trial process — may be seen as special pleading.

Mr Maxwell has been a fraud defendant; he denied the charges, was tried and acquitted. If anyone has a measure of expertise, he has.

Whether Mr Maxwell is right to accuse Serious Fraud Office director George Staple of attempting to load the dice in favour of the Crown is, in a way, beside the point. The heart of the matter is this: is a panel of judges, or of "expert assessors", any substitute for 12 good citizens and a jury? It was an error for Mr Staple, in his call on Monday at the London School of Economics for the re-opening of the question of jury trials, to enlist the fact that 90 per cent of criminal cases are heard by magistrates, not jurors. Despite the change of name, a magistrates court is a police court; its role is to punish offenders brought up from the local station.

Not much comparison there to the natural justice enshrined in the crown court.

Governance gap

INVESTORS in DIY group Wickes are angrily muttering about poor corporate governance and things having to change. But, once again, they have only themselves to blame.

There was no secret about Henry Sweetbaum being both chairman and chief executive, nor about the state of the non-executives, nor the record of poor communication with the City. Investing institutions knew all about that. They should have acted earlier.

Complying with the Cadbury Code is no guarantee of good business practice, but it helps. If institutional shareholders are not happy, their duty is to insist on changes. It is a privilege which small shareholders do not have.

Visa plus

ELECTRONIC cash is already being pushed as a wonderful new convenience for customers, doing away with visits to the bank and providing a vehicle for untold new services.

But consumers should be in no doubt: electronic cash systems such as Visa Cash and Mondex are designed mainly to boost corporate profits by cutting money-handling costs. The consumers' convenience is a poor second.

Consumers should be wary of any attempt to make them pay for such services. This would just be paying to let the banks make bigger profits.

Chief executives face demands for their removal as bitter shareholders take a beating

Strong's head on the block

Pauline Springett

DISGRUNTLED Sears shareholders yesterday spent nearly two hours lambasting the company's board and calling for the head of chief executive Liam Strong at a stormy annual general meeting in London.

Anger at the retail group's poor performance had clearly been exacerbated by the recent fiasco surrounding the sale of some of its shoe businesses to the now collapsed Facia Group.

Sears made a pre-tax loss of £120 million for the year to the end of January 1996, a performance described as "terrible" by one shareholder. "If this is your best I'm sorry for you and Liam Strong should go," he said in a call which triggered loud applause from the 350-strong audience.

Another shareholder said the board had received "ridiculous salaries for an absolutely pathetic performance. We'd like to see someone else running the outfit."

The meeting may increase the already-strong pressure on Mr Strong to depart. He has been at Sears for four years and there is growing City speculation that several of the company's institutional investors are becoming impatient with him.

Chairman Sir Bob Reid acknowledged the mood. "Every comment we've had today is critical of the way in which the business is performing, and rightly so," he said. But he insisted that Sears now had in place a sound strategy for each of its four core businesses — clothing, shoes, mail order and Selfridges.

The losses, he said, had been the inevitable result of the thorough revamp the company had undergone and he was cautiously optimistic about the current trading outlook.



Satisfied customers... but business was far from brisk at the DIY group's store in Edmonton, north London, yesterday. PHOTOGRAPH GARRY WEAVER

Wickes suspended on accounting alert

Roger Cowe

DIRECTORS of do-it-yourself group Wickes were last night trying

urgently to agree measures aimed at reassuring investors after its shares were suspended yesterday morning in the wake of a warning about "serious accounting problems".

The company's shares dropped 40p to 66p in the 53 minutes between the warning and the shares being suspended. Investors were last night calling for board changes, although they were awaiting

further details today before considering specific demands. One fund manager commented: "The current position of the board is untenable."

The primary focus of the institutions' concern is likely to be the dual role of Henry Sweetbaum, who is chairman and chief executive, despite the recommendation in the Cadbury Code on corporate governance that the roles be split.

Mr Sweetbaum is a financier who led the buy-out of Wickes from its US parent in 1982 and subsequently floated the company on the Stock Exchange in 1986. He was paid

more than £1 million last year because of long-term bonuses, despite the company recording a £258 million loss following the disposal of its timber interests.

Wickes' former finance director, Trevor Llewellyn, left to join building materials company Caradon almost a year ago.

He was succeeded by Stuart Stradling, formerly with the company's financial advisers, SBC Warburg. One fund manager asked yesterday: "If there have been accounting problems, why has it taken a year for the new finance director to uncover them?"

In its statement first thing yesterday morning, Wickes said the problems had emerged only on Monday.

"The board is meeting later today following the discovery yesterday of serious accounting problems," the statement said.

Wickes said the problems related to "the timing of recognition of profit from supplier contributions".

This is believed to refer to payments or discounts from suppliers, which may have been prematurely included in profits. However Wickes also upset institutions by failing to make clear what the problems

were, how substantial they were, or even which years were affected.

The statement said profits and shareholders' funds for 1995 had probably been overstated, but earlier years may also have been wrong.

"It is not possible to quantify the magnitude of these overstatements at present," the company said, adding that the cash position at the end of December was thought to be accurate.

Wickes' shares had fallen from a high of 141p in April, after it shocked investors at the annual meeting by announcing tough trading at its DIY stores.

Men from Pru to float M&G for spending spree

Pauline Springett and Cliff Jones

SPECULATION that Prudential was poised to make a takeover bid for the Woolwich Building Society reached fever pitch yesterday when the insurer announced plans to float its reinsurance arm Mercantile & General later this year.

Peter Davis, chief executive of the Pru, the UK's largest life insurer, said he expected to sell about half the group's stake in M&G, which has no connection with the unit trust group. Analysts estimate it would have a market capitalisation of between £1 billion and £1.5 billion, so the float could net the Pru upwards of £500 million.



talks with Prudential or any other potential buyer. "I won't speculate on anything in particular," said Mr Davis. He re-confirmed, however, that the Pru would like to buy both a life company and a building society. He also conceded that it was talking generally to many parties, but no talks were "of any significance".

Ex-Woolwich chief drops job claim for £165,000 pension

Teresa Hunter

DISGRACED Woolwich chief executive Peter Robinson will receive an annual pension of about £165,000 for the rest of his life — potentially worth more than £3 million — after he agreed not to sue Britain's third-largest building society for wrongful dismissal.

Mr Robinson, aged 54, who left the Woolwich after he was accused of abusing his position, will start receiving payments immediately — as he seeks to line up a new job. The

society alleged he used Woolwich gardeners, builders and vehicles for personal reasons. There were also allegations of special discounts on loans to acquaintances.

Mr Robinson yesterday again denied the allegations. "I remain convinced that my resignation was completely unnecessary."

The society appeared more conciliatory towards him in agreeing to drop the matter.

The Woolwich's statement said: "The board recognises the significant contribution made by Mr Robinson during his 33 years of service. Unhappily, matters arose — mainly concerned with the use of the society's facilities — which gave rise to a loss of trust, and an investigation by the society's lawyers and auditors has not altered the board's view."

UBS building society analyst Rob Thomas said: "Having castigated him so publicly at the outset, the nature of the settlement is rather surprising. It looks, perhaps, as if the board may now feel it overreacted with the original, very public, rebuke."

The Woolwich stressed that it would not pay compensation for Mr Robinson's two-year broken contract.

decision to float M&G had been the result of a strategic overview. "We have decided to concentrate Prudential's activities in future on retail financial services and related fund management activity," he said.

M&G, which specialises in life and health reinsurance, has clients in over 100 countries and 27 offices worldwide. It has started to recover from a few difficult years. In 1995 it had gross premiums of £1.3 billion and pro-

duced a 13 per cent increase in its pre-tax profit to £196 million.

The whirl of takeover rumours surrounding the Pru and the Woolwich coincided with a statement from the building societies ombudsman denouncing the trend by societies to convert into banks.

'Chile link' duo quit US brokers

Paul Murphy and Mark Tran in New York

Copper crisis

GLOBAL Minerals & Metals, the US metals broker which transacted business for Yasuo Hamanaka, Sumitomo's "rogue trader" who ran up losses of more than £1.3 billion, confirmed yesterday that two of its key executives, Carlos Derpsch and Owen Guarnini, had resigned.

The two men acted for Global in Santiago, where two years ago the Chilean authorities discovered that its state-owned copper trading agency Codelco had run up losses of more than \$200 million. Both

were investigated in relation to the losses but were cleared. "We were advised over the weekend that they were leaving the company," said Peter Haves, Global's attorney. "It was for personal reasons."

Global denied reports that another executive, Johnny Champagne, had also left. The resignation came a week after Global president David Campbell was subpoenaed by a US attorney in New York to testify before a grand jury probing the Sumitomo scandal.

Last week it emerged that Global was operating accounts at the London branch of Merrill Lynch on behalf of Mr Hamanaka. Merrill had said the accounts were opened with the knowledge of senior Sumitomo executives.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 1.875	France 7.74	Italy 2.322	Singapore 2.12
Spain 16.25	Germany 2.250	Malta 0.540	South Africa 6.51
Netherlands 2.570	Greece 365.00	Spain 182.50	Sweden 10.07
Canada 2.000	Hong Kong 11.53	New Zealand 2.21	Switzerland 1.80
Cyprus 0.700	India 53.02	Norway 9.84	Turkey 120.265
Denmark 8.000	Ireland 0.5425	Portugal 238.00	Saudi Arabia 6.75
Finland 7.000	Israel 4.97	USA 1.5075	

Supplied by the bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel).

12 SPORTS NEWS

Rugby Union

Chris Hewett says the Courage champions' bid for Wigan's gifted New Zealanders will send shivers down the spines of their rivals

Bath to sign Paul and Tuigamala well placed for BHB role

BATH, the league and cup champions, are close to completing a remarkable double signing from rugby league's Wigan that will send shivers down the spines of their rivals.

The New Zealanders Henry Paul and Va'auga Tuigamala are expected to agree winter deals with Bath, after playing in last month's cross-code matches between the two clubs.

Bath are equally confident of securing the services of the Wales scrum-half Robert Howley, who has confirmed his decision to leave Bridgend. Howley is being chased by Cardiff but is thought to be keen on a big-money stint in England. If all three end up at the Recreation Ground, Bath will possess a back division of awesome potential.

Paul and Tuigamala have both played regularly at centre for Wigan and will compete for first-team places with Jeremy Guscott and his fellow England international Phil De Glanville, who will captain Bath next season.

However, De Glanville indicated that the versatile Paul, who took last month's Middlesex Sevens by storm, might be considered as a full-back. Tuigamala, who won 19 caps as an All Black wing before switching to rugby league, would pose an obvious challenge to Bath's existing stable of strike runners, which includes Jon Sleightholme, Simon Geoghegan and Aleda Adebayo.

Bath's director of rugby John Hall, who talked with Paul on Monday, was unavailable for comment yesterday but De Glanville confirmed that the club were in negotiations with both Wigan players. "I'd be more than

happy to play alongside someone as talented as Henry Paul in any position," he said.

Neighbouring Bristol are easing the bitter disappointment of losing their scrum-half Kyran Bracken, who was on the England bench last season, to Saracens by talking to a number of potential replacements, including three of Bath's top four half-backs. Marcus Olsen and Simon Johnson have signalled an interest in moving to the Memorial Ground, but Bristol will also speak to Bath's Scottish international Andy Nicol when he returns from Scotland's tour of New Zealand.

The Bristol spokesman David Tyler said, "We've got a fair few options, for the simple reason that Kyran's departure means we have a No. 1 berth on offer. Not that we wanted to be in this situation; we thought had an agreement with Kyran and we're pretty unhappy about the way things have happened."

Tyler added that the England A second-row Simon Shaw, who is on the road to full fitness after serious knee and ankle problems, had signed a two-year deal with the club. Shaw, one of the most talented tight forwards in European rugby, had been chased by both Bath and Wasps before agreeing to stay put.

The former England manager Geoff Cooke yesterday became director of rugby at Bedford. He links up with Paul Turner, the Courage League Two side's new player-coach.

Craig Channel, the 21-year-old Llanelli flanker, will today join his brother Scott at Richmond, also in Courage League Two.



Code breaker... Wigan's Tuigamala hands off Robinson of Bath in last month's historic match at Twickenham

Racing

Wakeham well placed for BHB role

Chris Hawkins

ANYONE doubting the enthusiasm for racing of Lord Wakeham, the new chairman of the British Horseracing Board, should know that he once chartered a private plane to fly himself to Fairhouse to see the Dikler run in the Irish National.

John Wakeham is, of course, more readily identified as a leading Tory, having entered parliament in 1974 where he held various senior positions, including chief whip, secretary of state for energy and leader of the House of Commons before retiring two years ago.

At 64, he remains a man of prodigious energy and is each day at 5.30 a.m. to fulfil a punishing schedule which would have many a young thruster suffering from acute stress syndrome.

Being chairman of four public companies as well as the BHB and the Press Complaints Commission is apparently not enough to keep him busy and he holds two non-executive directorships in this country and one in the United States.

Racing can rest assured, therefore, that as the first non-member of the Jockey Club to be running the game, it has someone of considerable acumen and political influence.

The object is that he uses it to secure an industry which employs nearly 100,000 people but suffers from lack of finance. Wakeham sees three key areas of improvement through self-help, government aid and communication.

It is in the realms of government assistance that his contacts could prove vital, provided the Conservatives remain in power, for this is a man who gave John Major his first job as a junior minister. "The Prime Minister and the Home Secretary are both interested in racing, although I would think the Chancellor is more of a football fan," said Wakeham.

"As yet, finances and betting arrangements are not satisfactory and racing has an unfinished agenda. We must put an unanswerable case for a further reduction in betting duty, the essence being that if we get it down more people will be encouraged to bet and government revenue will not suffer."

Such a submission will be made in late July or the beginning of August when he says politicians will have more time to digest it — he remembers he once went on holiday laden with 5,000 pages of policy suggestions to read. Few would dispute the principle of his argument and he regards a further government concession as a "realistic prospect", particularly if the trend is for a general reduction in taxation.

On a more parochial matter, he is not in favour of switching the Derby back to Wednesday, at least not yet, and will be concurring with the decision of Epsom, expected to be announced shortly, to stay with Saturday.

"I wouldn't be in too much of a hurry to change back," he said. "The jury is still out and I think we should see what it looks like in a few years' time."

Carlisle with guide to the latest form

Table of horse racing results and form for Carlisle, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

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Kempton tonight

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Salisbury

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Results

Table of horse racing results for various tracks, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

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Wimbledon Matchline advertisement featuring 'Latest Scores and Results', 'Top player's results to date', and contact information for 0891 700 326 and 0891 700 327.

Kinane on Dr Massini advertisement featuring a quote from Michael Kinane: "I blundered for the first time today. CARLISLE 4.15 THE BUTTERWICK RID: 4.45 Washington. KEMPTON 7.40 Horesti. CHESTER 7.55 Rock Symphony."

RACELINE advertisement for Salisbury Racecourse, featuring contact information for 0930 168 and listing various race results.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'Henn Russ green', 'For the Cell', and 'FREE' text.

WIMBLEDON: DAY TWO

Henman makes Russian look green on grass

Stephen Bierley sees French champion humbled by British hope's glittering array

TIM HENMAN, Britain's No. 1, pulled off the most astonishing triumph of his short career with a tumultuous 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 4-6, 7-5 victory over Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the newly minted French Open champion, in front of a captivated Centre Court here yesterday.

It was a quite stupendous match, bursting with wonderful tennis and packed with gripping drama. In 1977 John Lloyd beat the fourth seed, Roscoe Tanner, in the first round, but that victory paled by comparison.

Henman won the first two sets with an array of glittering shots and superb serving. Kafelnikov, the No. 5 seed, has been rated by Pete Sampras as one of the best returners of serve in the modern game. Henman equalled and at times bettered him.

"It now seems a very, very long time since I won at Roland Garros," said Kafelnikov, who was generosity itself to Henman afterwards.

These two played together a great deal as juniors; they even share the same manager, Jan Felgate, the wife of the British coach David. But before yesterday they had met only once at senior level, the Russian winning 7-6, 6-3 in Rotterdam.

The great advantage Henman had this time was good old British grass. "You need three weeks to get used to it," said Kafelnikov, who was clearly at odds with the green stuff at the start.

He was like a cat treading on water and midway through the set strapped a bright blue shirt on his left leg. It was probably more of a comforter than anything, for he was never noticeably hampered.

As in Holland the first set went to a tie-break and when the Russian moved into a 6-3 lead, it seemed Henman's battle in the June sun would be uphill. But suddenly and

thrillingly the 21-year-old Briton snapped back. Kafelnikov, a year older, double-faulted at 6-6 and Henman served out for the first-set victory.

British men's tennis, picking up on the wind of success and good fortune which has blown England to tonight's European Championship semi-final against Germany at Wembley, now has seven players through to the second round, the most since 1977.

Greg Rusedski, Mark Petchey, Danny Sapsford and Luke Milligan all won yesterday to join Colin Beecher and Chris Wilkinson, but it seemed that the greatest win of the lot was about to elude Wimbledon when Kafelnikov, digging deep into his wonderfully rich mine of shots, stormed back to level at two-sets all.

That was nothing to do with Henman suddenly playing poorly or losing confidence. He continued to serve with great depth and pace, and his returns sparkled and flashed, but by then Kafelnikov had remembered he was a champion and grew in strength and determination.

In such a match there is a fine line between determination and tiredness. It was Henman, as fresh as a spring daisy for the first couple of hours, who began to show small tell-tale signs of wearing.

He had been playing to such a remarkably high standard that it was hardly surprising. Smelling blood, Kafelnikov went for the kill and broke Henman in the first game of the final set. A tense hush fell across the Centre Court crowd.

The Russian was on a run; he had served for 2-0 and then clamped an iron grip. It seemed that another tale of glorious British tennis defeat was unfolding, with no possibility that the French champion would fail to close out the match.

He missed two match points at 5-3, but even then it still appeared likely Henman would ultimately lose. Then, in the 10th game, Kafelnikov double-faulted to present Henman with two break points. He needed only one. All was square again and Kafelnikov's nerves were jangling.

When Henman levelled at 5-5 one would have thought he had won the match: the roars of encouragement were immense, yet even as they echoed around the court Henman was beginning to struggle with cramp.

He held his serve for a 6-5 lead, almost teetering over after more than 3 1/2 hours on court, but Kafelnikov's serve crumbled again and with it went the No. 5 seed.

Henman's smile for once was even wider than Rusedski's. "Obviously I was delighted," he said. "I'll turned around very quickly. I was always trying to play catch-up after losing my serve at the start of the last set but I was never nervous."

He's a very good player on any surface but obviously I felt I had a chance on grass. Henman had gone out in the first round at Roland Garros, beaten in straight sets.

There was no huge celebration at the end: "I was too tired to jump around. Now he has to adjust himself mentally to face Sapsford today.

The men's singles has only three of its top eight seeds remaining: Sampras, the defending champion, Boris Becker, and Goran Ivanisevic. That has not happened before in the Open era. It has been a remarkable couple of days.

Rusedski revealed after his 7-6, 7-6, 6-2 victory over the Canadian Daniel Nestor that he had very nearly missed Wimbledon. He put out his hip joint at the Nottingham tournament last week. "On Sunday I woke up and almost couldn't get out of bed." Physiotherapy and acupuncture got him back on his feet by Monday.

British tennis in general is certainly standing proud this morning. "Everybody is very positive at the moment," said Henman. If only it could last.



A backhand for the future... the British No. 1 Tim Henman shows poise and determination to upset Yevgeny Kafelnikov. PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Gloom overtakes Stich

Paul Weaver on the stylish German whose party pooping is being hampered by injury

MICHAEL STICH arrived grumpy in the past two Wimbledon, stumping out of the tournament in the first round both times. He is one of the most elegant players at this year's championships and may be forgiven for not smiling much lately. He has come through difficult times, although his win over Thomas Muster on his way to the final of the French Open suggested his rehabilitation was complete.

In Vienna last October, while playing Australia's Todd Woodbridge, his left ankle collapsed. He withdrew from the Australian Open in January and could compete only in the doubles in the Davis Cup win over Switzerland in February. Then in Milan his ankle gave way again and he had an operation in March.

He was clearly still worried about his ankle yesterday evening, as he embarked on his eighth Wimbledon in fading light. "I'm as scared as hell," he said when the light and the condition of the grass came up for discussion.

Stich looked in impressive form in the first set, breaking for 4-2 and winning it 6-3 in 24 minutes. But Schalken, 56th in the rankings, surprised his opponent by taking the second by the same score. Both players complained about the light early in the third set, after Stich had broken and established a 4-1 advantage; play was suspended. It was the first half-smile we had from the former champion.

Andreas Gaudenzi yesterday became the first player to be fined at this year's championships. The 22-year-old Italian must pay around £1,000 for making unsportsmanlike comments to the umpire Andreas Rigi during his first-round win over the American Michael Joyce.

Rare sighting of the mature Shriver

Frank Keating on the trail of hearty young Hingis and a graceful American veteran

STEFFI GRAF cruised through, almost as smoothly as Monica Seles did on Monday. Ditto Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, just as Conchita Martinez had done the day before. And, er, that's about it. Eleven days to go till the women's final, but it is a safe bet that two of these four will be contesting it.

The women's game is desperate for some strength in depth, and its scoreboard - love, love me do - is already speckled with successive nothings. Yesterday did however provide some historical resonance. It saw the senior Wimbledon debut of the latest child prodigy, 15-year-old Martina Hingis, who thumping dispatched the grown-up Jana Nedeljkovic of Canada by 6-2, 6-2.

The Slovakian-born Swiss teenager carries a wallop. Her ripping two-flisted backhanders resemble someone going for marlin with a shrimp net. She carries her spare service ball on a metal butterfly-clip in the small of her back, gets on with the game and plays in deadly earnest. Off court, though, her smile was as sunny as the midsummer's day.

The elderly All England flunky who escorted her to the post-match press conference asked: "Do you want the questions in German?" "No," she replied. "In Swiss-German, please." So only Swiss-Germans knew what she was saying, but she looked happy about it.

Ludmila Richterova, who was wiped out by Miss Graf after a starchy enough beginning, kept her spare ball behind her too, but on a blob of that adhesive nylon fuzz they use in cricket batting gloves. Each to their own. Jana Kandasar of Germany, obliterated love and love by Mary Joe Fernandez, kept her comely inside the back rim of her knicker elastic.

Two other interesting facts you never knew about Wimbledon 96: only 13 of the 180 women competitors are married, and the championships' shortest surname now belongs to Miss K Po, Miss P Hy having married since last year: she now calls herself Hy-Boulais.

After her work-out against the leggy and languid Miss Richterova, Miss Graf pronounced her knee injury of last week "okay". She had spent most of that time watching Euro 96, but refused to give a prediction for tonight's big match.

After the bonny bounciness of Miss Sanchez Vicario's easy victory it was some relief to relax on an outside bench far in the country and renew one's annual admiration for the more mature charms of Miss Pamela Shriver.

Eighteen years older than Miss Hingis, she is an author, broadcaster, serve-and-volleyer and erstwhile president of the Athletes For Bush-Quayle '88. Benjamin would have drooled too. Her great foxtail-brush of hair streamed down her back, and golden bracelets glittered at her wrist. Between games it seemed to be chocolates she was eating from silver paper, and when she slipped from her paper cup the little duchess finger was raised.

Pamela's grunt is not the urgent bark of a serving Seles, more a just-audible sigh, an erotic gasp. She won by 6-4, 6-1 against Annabel Elwood of Australia. Miss Shriver is 34 next week. I wonder how Miss Hingis will be getting on in 2014?

Of the Brits, Clare Wood lost after strolling through the first set, and Rachel Viulet beat her compatriot Megan Miller in three sets.

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For the best deal, buy Cellphones

Advertisement for mobile phones. Includes text: "LIMITED OFFER £4.99 INC. VAT", "NOKIA NEW GSM MODEL 1610", "FREE CALLS 30 MINUTES PER MONTH". Features a list of phone models and their prices.

Advertisement for World News, delivered to your door. Includes text: "World news, delivered to your door.", "The Guardian International and the Observer are both now available by subscription throughout France.", "This means you can enjoy the Guardian International's award winning journalism every day, delivered direct to your home. Quality reading - world and UK news, analysis, business, features and sport - brought to you, every morning, at no extra cost."

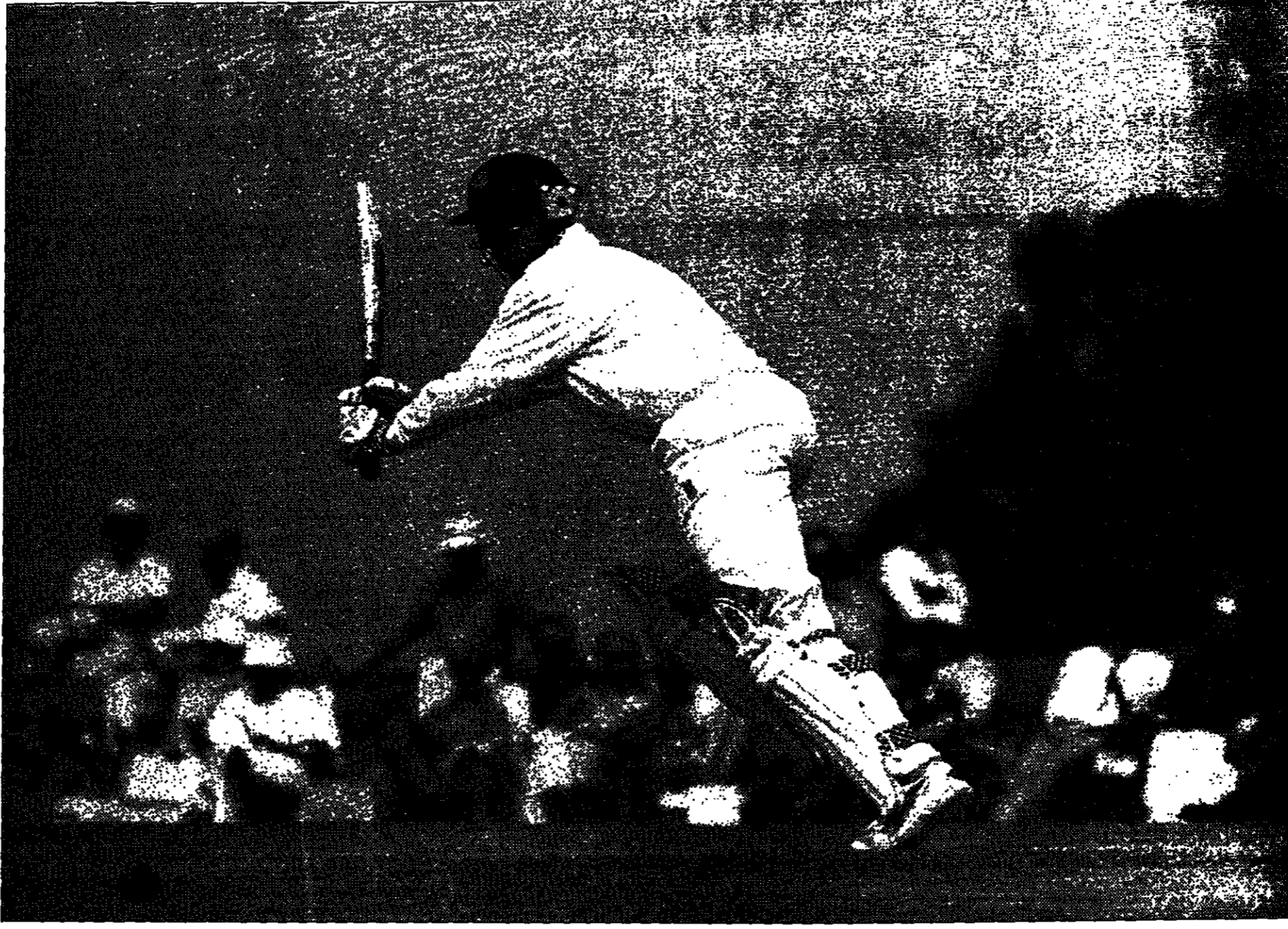
14 SPORTS NEWS

Cricket

NatWest Trophy: Oxfordshire v Lancashire

Lancashire far from fall guys

Mike Selvey at Aston Rowant. EACH year at this time various Minor Counties await the first round of the NatWest Trophy with relief, waiting to split a custard pie in the face of a hapless first-class side...



Beating a rural retreat... Nick Speak had time to enjoy the Oxfordshire surroundings as much as his 83 runs for Lancashire at Aston Rowant yesterday

Lincolnshire v Gloucestershire

Fell runs come before the trip

David Hopps at Sleaford. THE most notable achievement on this ground came back in 1851 when 23 of Sleaford beat an England XI by two runs. Today, Sleaford might just have achieved similar celebrity but, limited to 11, the Minor County could manage only respectability as they succumbed to Gloucestershire by 87 runs.

Cornwall v Warwickshire

Cornish cream far from clotted

David Foot at St Austell. THAT Warwickshire, who are the champions after all, eventually won in a dawdle by 133 runs. The Cornishers were the sportsmen, and collected 87 from 83 balls before he was stumped.

Wells leads rush of runs with 201

Wells leads rush of runs with 201. OUT of their depth among the first-class counties on a day of heavy scoring and tumbling records. Vince Wells's second double century in six days for Leicestershire in the 106-run win against Berkshire was the county's best individual score in the competition and the second-highest in one-day cricket in England.

Best man of the match

Best man of the match. Both centuries, but the 23-year-old Lancashire had the satisfaction of smulating Roy Marshall and Barry Richards as Hampshire's only batsmen in the competition's history to reach three figures before lunch. He was also the county's first player to score 100 on his 60-over debut.

Scoreboard

NatWest Trophy

First round

Table listing cricket scores for various matches including NatWest Trophy, Staffordshire v Derbyshire, Staffordshire v Gloucestershire, Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Staffordshire v Yorkshire, Staffordshire v Worcestershire, Staffordshire v Northamptonshire, Staffordshire v Oxfordshire, Staffordshire v Kent, Staffordshire v Devon, Staffordshire v Cornwall, Staffordshire v Somerset, Staffordshire v Devon, Staffordshire v Cornwall, Staffordshire v Somerset, Staffordshire v Devon, Staffordshire v Cornwall, Staffordshire v Somerset.

Table listing cricket scores for various matches including Staffordshire v Derbyshire, Staffordshire v Gloucestershire, Staffordshire v Warwickshire, Staffordshire v Yorkshire, Staffordshire v Worcestershire, Staffordshire v Northamptonshire, Staffordshire v Oxfordshire, Staffordshire v Kent, Staffordshire v Devon, Staffordshire v Cornwall, Staffordshire v Somerset.

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Advertisement for 'Logts Klinstr' featuring a large image of a person and text promoting the product. The text includes 'Logts Klinstr' and 'Therpe'.

Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'J.P. 15/50'.

EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS

Vogts milks the Klinsmann calf

Martin Thorpe finds Germany's manager making the most of his top striker's injury

THERE was a hint yesterday that the Germans were trying to play a warm-up game against England ahead of tonight's main event. It involved a sick German calf...

through joy or disappointment he could not predict. Yes, Vogts had watched the 1986 game on television and he hoped the infamous incident would not be repeated...



Downhill all the way... Gerd Müller scores West Germany's winner in Leon in 1970, after England led 2-0 with 20 minutes to go, and the slide was on

David Lacey charts the history of England v Germany encounters since the World Cup triumph in 1966

Thirty years of hurt...

1966 Wembley, July 30 (World Cup final) England 4, West Germany 2 (aet) England's most famous victory...

UNTIL Franz Beckenbauer scored the only goal in a friendly in Hanover in 1968 England could comfort themselves with the thought that, though they might be taught lessons in humility by the Americans and technique by the Hungarians...

Wembley for a European Championship quarter-final in 1972 they were following the Dutch into total football. After Gmüther Netzer had finished with England that night the feeling at Wembley was closer to total disillusionment.

1987 Düsseldorf, September 9 (Friendly) West Germany 3, England 1 Back to reality, England were no match for Beckenbauer's rebuilt team...

1990 Turin, July 4 (World Cup semi-final) England 1, West Germany 1 (Germany won 4-3 on pens) Losing on penalties with the final so close has left England with wretched memories of Turin...

Germans positively happy

John Duncan finds visiting supporters pleasantly surprised by their welcome

THE German experience of Euro 96 has been, according to the Fan Projekt workers who have come to England to iron out any problems. They have worked alongside English supporters for four weeks now and the only time anyone has said no to them was when Uefa refused to let them unfurl a giant banner...

ing that there was a prize being offered by English hooligans for every dead German. It was just rubbish and I think the police are investigating the programme makers.

1968 Hanover, June 1 (Friendly) West Germany 1, England 0 Significant now only as the first time England lost to a German team. Only four of Alf Ramsey's 1966 side - Banks, Moore, Ball and Hurst - played in this game.

1972 Berlin, May 13 (European Championship quarter-final, second leg) West Germany 0, England 0 The return match found Ramsey at his most perverse. Needing to score at least twice to stand a chance of staying in the tournament, he packed his midfield with muscle...

1975 Wembley, March 12 (Friendly) England 2, West Germany 0 Alan Hudson's match, Don Revie's defence was a hybrid - Watson and Bestie in the middle, Whitworth and Gillie at full-back - but the attack of Macdonald, Channon, Hudson and Keegan gelled. Ball was captain. Later he and Hudson missed a curfew: neither played for England again.

1982 Madrid, June 29 (World Cup q-final phase) England 0, West Germany 0 The least memorable of England's four World Cup encounters with West Germany. Afterwards Ron Greenwood pointed out that his team had stopped Kalitz getting in dangerous crosses, but Stielke, the German sweeper, had denied England more than the odd glimpse of goal. Rummenigge hit the bar in the closing minutes.

1992 Wembley, October 13 (Friendly) England 1, West Germany 2 Only a friendly but this time Rummenigge did not miss as Bobby Robson suffered his first defeat in only his second match. The Germans lost their sweeper Forster, Mabbutt hit a post but the introduction of Littbarski revived their attack and Rummenigge struck twice before Woodcock replied.

Italy pair to go but Croatia coach must stay

THE president of the Italian soccer federation, Antonio Matarrese, and the coach Arrigo Sacchi face the sack after Italy's elimination from the European Championship. But Croatia's coach Miroslav Blazevic, who resigned after his team's quarter-final defeat by Mexico, has been told he must honour his contract.

ists who badgered him: "You will have a new coach to criticise." Manchester United will today sign the Dutch goalkeeper Raymond van der Gouw from Vitesse Arnhem on a free transfer.

1972 Wembley, April 29 (European Championship quarter-final, first leg) England 1, West Germany 3 The beginning of the end for Ramsey's England management. Netzer ruled Wembley that night, Beckenbauer and Müller were as daunting as ever, Breitner and Hoeness were exciting newcomers. Ball, Hurst and Peters had been joined by Bell, Lee and Chivers but England could not get going. Moore made rare errors.

1978 Munich, February 22 (Friendly) West Germany 2, England 1 An unusual game in that Worn, having scored for the

1985 Mexico City, June 12 (Pre-World Cup 'friend') England 3, West Germany 0 The scoreline hides the reality. Franz Beckenbauer had taken over the German squad and did not want to go to Mexico. But the contract had been signed, so England faced reluctant, jet-lagged opponents in the Aztecs' this air. Still, Shilton saved a penalty and Dixon took his goals with aplomb.

1993 Wembley, September 11 (Friendly) England 0, Germany 1 Graham Taylor's first defeat in his 13th match as England manager. He was not happy, complaining bitterly about the poor marking that allowed Riedle a free header after Matthias had set up Doll for the cross. Taylor described the goal as "one moment of madness". More were to follow.

1995 Dresden, June 19 (US Cup) England 1, Germany 2 Given the debacle in Norway, followed by humiliation against the United States in Boston, it was almost a relief to get back to normal. Lyle, who performed inside a giant pressure-cooker could be so described. Taylor dispensed with full-backs, which suited the Germans. Platt's goal was neat but irrelevant.

Rugby League

England have edge to oust Wales in European decider

ENGLAND'S record victory over France at Gateshead two weeks ago did not do a lot for the game's international credibility, but the European Championship decider against the title holders Wales in Cardiff tonight should be a much more competitive affair.

Athletics

Flying Fredericks

FRANKIE FEDERICKS, Linford Christie's training partner, last night served notice that he is the favourite to inherit the Briton's Olympic 100 metres title when he produced one of the greatest sprint performances of all time.

Results

Rugby Union TOUR MATCH (Sydney): Australian Universities 6, Canada 16. Athletics INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS (Helsinki): 100m: 1. F Fredericks (Jamaica) 9.75sec; 2. D Braithwaite (GB) 10.15; 3. D Bailey (CAN) 10.15; 200m: 1. V Dolezal (CZE) 21.95; 2. R Dempsie (GB) 22.01; 4. D Coles (USA) 20.54; 400m: 1. Thomas (USA) 1.47; 2. D Lugo (USA) 1.47; 800m: 1. R Guy (Trinidad) 1.56; 1500m: 4.52; 5. R Guy (Trinidad) 4.52; 1000m: 2.45; 2. S Stewart (GB) 2.47; 1.5. P Mesinger (GB) 3.44; 1500m: 4.52; 1. T Jarvis (GB) 12.48; 2. F Balzer (GER) 12.08; 3. A Tong (CHN) 12.07; 5000m: 16.51; 10000m: 34.08; 1. S. P. Bodan (GB) 22.02; 3. H. Hakkarainen (FIN) 21.78; 10000m: 1. M. Trandanos (FIN) 11.10sec; 2. M. Richardson (GB) 11.42; 3. J. Manning (GB) 11.51; 20000m: 1. A. J. Barrow (GB) 22.76; 2. L. Naylor (AUS) 23.25; 3. V. Warren (USA) 24.05; Long jump: 1. L. J. V. Verbruggen (NED) 6.64; 2. V. Verbruggen (NED) 6.64.

Sport in brief

Hockey Mandy Nicholls of Slough scored a brilliant solo goal to give Great Britain a 1-1 draw with Spain, the Olympic champions, in the first of two international on successive days in Madrid yesterday. Lucía López chipped the ball into the net after intercepting a hit-out to give Spain the lead after 25 minutes but Nicholls weaved her way through the home defence to score. Boxing Britain's Henry Akınwande has been given a new opponent in his challenge for the vacant WBO heavyweight title in Reno, California on Saturday. The 29-year-old London-based fighter will face the Californian Jeremy Williams after his original opponent Alex Zolken, suffered a badly cut left eye in training. Sailing Lawrie Smith confirmed yesterday in Southampton that he had signed a contract to skipper Team EF's male crewed boat in the Whitbread Race that starts next year. writes Bob Fisher. Johan Sellen, EF's team manager, said Smith had always been first choice "but for a variety of reasons it has taken some time to reach a final agreement". In the fourth race of the Hackett Stihells World Championship at Cowes, Australia's Noel Draxman beat Britain's Adam Gosling to the finish by two seconds but Gosling's second place leaves him only four points behind the series leader, Jud Smith of the United States, who was fifth yesterday.

Wales will give a fitness test to Anthony Sullivan

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Bath turn to rugby league, page 12

Henman denies Paris champion, page 13

The cup comes to Aston Rowant, page 14

Euro 96: The Wembley show-down, pages 15

SportsGuardian

EURO 96: THE SEMI-FINALS



Standard bearer... Venables at training yesterday, 'a couple of glories from fame at home and fortune abroad' FRANK BARON

England v Germany at Wembley

Venables goes for the quick kill

David Lacey weighs the balance of the teams' tactics and says Venables' finest hour hinges on scoring in the first 60 minutes

IF THERE really is such a thing as the triumph of the will, then England have a better than even chance of reaching their second final in a major tournament. Precedent may favour Germany in tonight's European Championship semi-final but the passions of the Wembley crowd will be driving on Terry Venables players with an even greater fervour.

The Germans are in the semi-finals by habit. Since losing to England in 1966 they have competed in 15 World Cups and European Championships and failed to reach this stage in only four of them. England, on the other hand, have made it thus far on only four occasions, including 1966.

The chances of England appearing in Sunday's final, possibly against France although the Czechs are surely capable of springing another surprise at Old Trafford this afternoon, seem simple enough. They can win the match in the first hour but the longer the stalemate the greater the likelihood of a German victory.

Yet the prospect of the game being decided by a goal in sudden-death overtime still looks remote. By introducing an additional way to win, Uefa has also burdened teams with another way to lose. Caution has set in earlier.

Another about-face, however, is a distinct possibility, and since the Germans lost the 1976 European Championship final to Czechoslovakia on penalties they have made a point of winning these coconut shies. More than that, they have not missed once in three World Cup shoot-outs with France (1982), Mexico (1986) and England (1990).

So it is clearly in England's interest to get the matter settled before Seaman is asked to perform further heroic and Pearce has to resume his duel with German goalkeepers. Venables will choose his team with a quick kill in mind but will be equally aware of the need to preserve wind and limb for a game of attrition.

He will not know until this morning just who is available. Adams and Sheringham should be fit but Gascoigne's ankle is still causing concern and Anderton's strained ham-

string did not allow him to practise yesterday. Redknapp, recovering from damaged ankle ligaments, could be an option but will not be risked unnecessarily.

With Gascoigne, Venables has to consider the intense pace at which tonight's match will probably be played. "He's improving and moved quite well this morning but he's got to do more than that," the England coach observed yesterday.

Venables' prime concern is that England do not wear themselves out too soon through chasing the game, which is what happened against Switzerland. He expects Bert Vogts to employ the usual five-man defence, with Sammer making sudden forward runs and Ziege a consistent threat on the left.

All the signs yesterday were that, with Gary Neville suspended, his 19-year-old brother Philip would be used to counter Ziege's pace through his own brand of athleticism. Since Ince, who

missed the Spain game, is due to return to the midfield, this would mean Platt returning to the bench.

A triumph of the Phil would be crucial in determining the pattern of tonight's match. Having lost both Bobic and Klinsmann to injuries — although Venables is still working on the assumption that the latter will appear at some time during the match — Vogts will either use both Bierhoff and Kuntz up front or push Möller forward to support one of them.

"I wouldn't be surprised if Germany played with just one up," Venables said, "but they don't normally change. Either way we've got to keep the ball. We've also got to try to be direct but their defenders are very hard to shift."

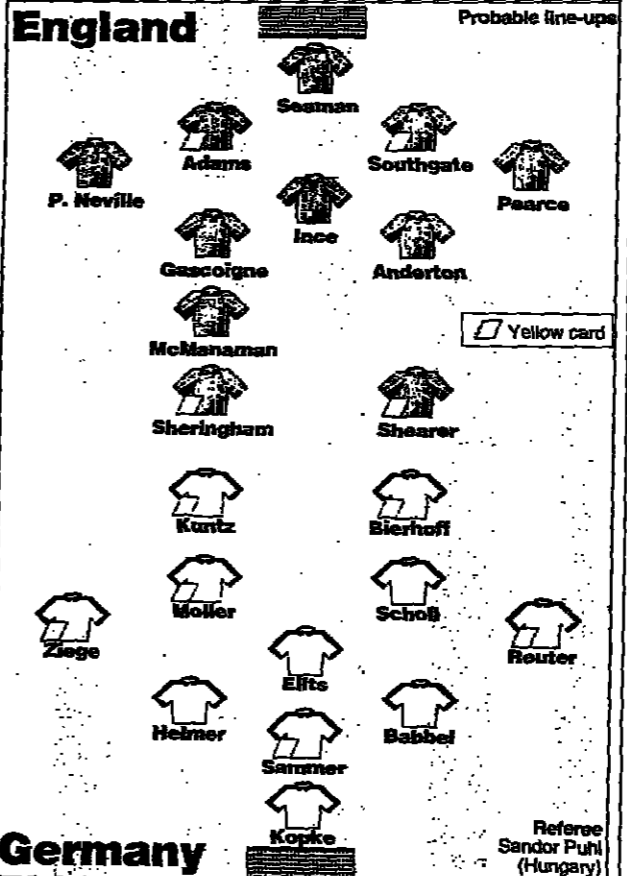
With Shearer likely to struggle for openings against Sammer, Babbel and Helmer, and even a fit Sheringham and Gascoigne lacking the pace of the German defenders, much is going to depend on McManaman being able to

take the ball past opponents to create space. The ability of Ince to infiltrate the German cover is likely to be equally crucial.

Ince offered the thought that, whatever happens now, "we've put England back on the map as far as international football is concerned". Not quite. By reaching the semi-finals as host nation Venables's team have merely confirmed their place on the map of England, no more.

However, reaching the final by overcoming Holland, Spain and Germany would be something else. "There is a great desire in the squad," said Venables. "If it's a matter of wanting success, we're on track. But we've got one problem: they want it as well."

Venables's career as England coach could end tonight. At best he has another four days in office before handing over the squad to Glenn Hoddle. At worst he will be remembered for a gallant effort. But the old Spur could be just a couple of glories and a halcyon away from fame at home and another fortune abroad. With a little luck, of course.



Punter stakes all on Germany

AT LEAST one Englishman will be cheering on Germany tonight after placing a remarkable £122 accumulator bet on nine sporting selections, writes Neil Robinson. If Bert Vogts's side go on to win the tournament at Wembley, just Sunday he will pick up £201,069.

The mystery punter first approached the bookmaker William Hill last April, picking Manchester United to win the Premiership and Rangers to win the Scottish title. He then correctly forecast the winners of the three other English divisions — Sunderland, Swindon and Preston — and topped off his selections with St Helens for rugby league's Silk Cut Cup, Bosra Sham for the 1,000 Guineas and Mark of Esteem for the 2,000 Guineas.

"It's an incredible strike rate which means that he effectively has over £33,000 running on to Germany to win the tournament," said a spokesman for the bookmaker.

Good luck England from your number one supporter.



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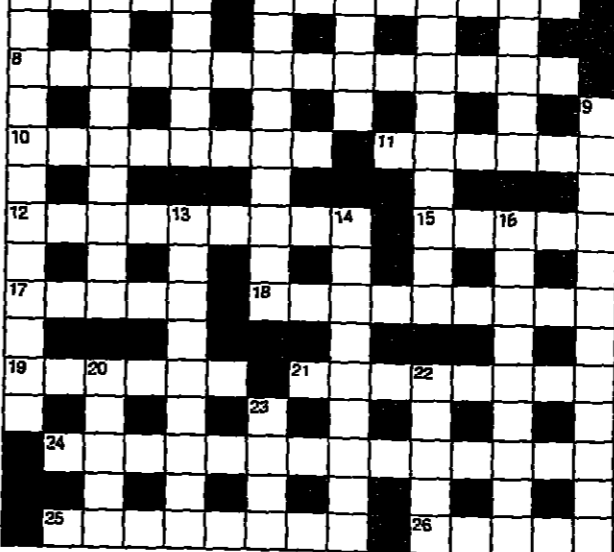
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Sports

Guardian Crossword No 20,689

Set by Araucaria

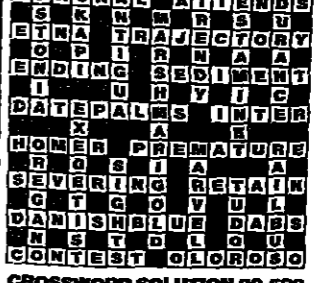


Across

- 1 See 20
- 4 Space for pulp developed in the dark? (8)
- 8 Everywhere it's absolutely finished business (3,4,3,4)
- 10 Tree needs work around St. David's day (8)
- 11 English girl, Italian boy, and genuine student missing (6)
- 12 Chopper needed when there's decay on a tree (9)
- 15 When a boy's about 1 like 17 and 23 (5)
- 17 Philosopher of the first degree with painter (5)
- 18 Novel structure in which a companion to the French, Mary Queen of Scots, was held (9)
- 19 Plant a runner, perhaps, put in as well (6)
- 21 Look into questionable firsts with a lot of bloomers (8)

Down

- 1 Give executors the go-ahead with note about including an insect, an expert flier (5,7)
- 2 Muslim claim: is it flexible? (9)
- 3 Not dead meat? (5)
- 4 A break in the post for dispersing files (4,1-4)
- 5 Like this little house in London (4)
- 6 Bitter and, nearly, when it's tranquil outside (8)
- 7 Ancient bishop at ancient city creates a stink (5)
- 9 Corridor for drugs going to stall if not kept up (7,5)
- 13 Equestrian event: only a trip will spoil it (4,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,689

- 14 A device on a banner is better than one on gold (9)
- 16 Home base keeps brother or sister out of sight (9)
- 20, 1-acr Clue for girl student: 17, 23, 3, 19, 4 across 15 26, etc. (6,5)
- 22 King — of Israel — and harlot (5)
- 23 Gives incentives, say, with strings (4)

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